

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Fermin Cruz, 83, retired Army and Air Force
Exchange Service Station Manager

"Oh, you know how I heard about it [Hawaii]? I read the newspaper every time. This [Labor Commissioner Cayetano] Ligot wrote a article in the newspaper. They call Free Press. He said that, 'I invite you Filipinos who are willing to work and want to earn good money to come to Hawaii. Because although there are Filipinos over here, boy they are lazy These people over here, they get woolen suit, nice clothes, and they earn plenty money. Why don't you come?'"

Fermin Cruz, the twelfth of nineteen children, was born July 7, 1901, at Camiling, Tarlac, Philippines. His father was a rice merchant. Fermin graduated from Camiling Academy and was captain of his ROTC unit.

Fermin immigrated to Hawaii in 1926 and worked first as a cook in Wailuku, Maui. He then moved to Kahului, Maui and worked for California Packing Corporation's pineapple cannery where he worked his way up to foreman.

After the CPC cannery closed during the Depression, Fermin sold insurance in Maui.

In 1941, Fermin, his wife and family moved to Honolulu's Aala District. He began working for the Army and Air Force Exchange, first as a warehouse checker, then as a truck driver, clerk, and service station manager. Between 1941 and his retirement in 1967, Fermin was assigned to exchanges at various Oahu military bases: Hickam Field, Fort Shafter, Fort Ruger, Schofield Barracks, and Tripler Army Hospital.

In 1946, Fermin purchased his home in Kalihi. Today, he is active in senior citizens activities, Our Lady of the Mount Church, and the Filipino Catholic Club.

Tape No. 11-39-1-84

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Fermin Cruz (FC)

February 22, 1984

Kalihi, Oahu

BY: Fernando Zialcita (FZ)

FZ: This is a taped interview with Mr. Fermin Cruz on February 22, 1984 at Kalihi, Oahu.

Kumusta kayo (How are you)?

FC: Mabuti (Fine).

FZ: Kaano ti pannakayanakyo (When were you born)?

FC: July the 7th, 1901 in Camiling.

FZ: Camiling. . . .

FC: Tarlac. In the Lincoln Street, by the river. We are neighbors with the Romulo, you know.

FZ: Oh. Iti poblacion (In the town proper)?

FC: Ya, iti ili (Yes, in the town proper).

FZ: Mano dagiti anak dagiti (pause) tatang ken nanangyo (How many children did your father and mother have)?

FC: I don't know exactly, but according to my mother, we had nineteen. All of us. But the oldest brothers I get before I was born, well, they are good-working boys and they help my father and mother to improve their business, because they are merchants, eh? But when they were at the age of seventeen and eighteen like that, cholera was in the Philippines. And then, they died of cholera, these two. So, my father and mother, that time, they were disappointed and they neglected their business. Until finally, they keep up and continue their business. They are merchants, you know.

FZ: Ania nga klase ti merchants (What sort of merchants)?

FC: They sell all kinds. They get rice. My mother sell that bagoong,

salt, tobacco, and that match, kerosene. My mother. But my father used to specialize in rice only. He buy rice from the farmers and then sell to the Chinese. Plenty of them are Filipinos who are merchants over there. But when I was going to school already, every time I see this Chinese come to the house. And you know what happened? My father don't receive the newspaper. His trouble is that he don't know about the current prices. If the price of money is already high, he don't know the price in the country. So, this Chinese, they come over there, "Don Basilio." They ask him, "How much one kaban of rice?"

They tell him so much. "Oh, I give you fifty cents commission on one. How many kabans you want?"

He go buy so much. After another week, another bunch of Chinese come again. But the price high already, they give him some more. He buy some more. And then, when I used to go to school, me, even though my father don't allow me to mingle with them, I always wanted to know what they are talking about, because I was going to school that time, eh? And then, finally, my mother was telling me, "Ey, we are broke already. Because your father owe plenty money to the Chinese." And they even sell my rice, because my mother get plenty land, eh? And that, it wasn't enough, because our cows, they sell to pay.

So, I noticed that problem. That's true, they are not improving anymore. So, finally, in the school, we study about the current events. And then, my father don't know. He's not reading newspaper. I told him, "Hey, Daddy. You know why the Chinese always took advantage with you? You don't know the current price. The current price in Manila is high already." Supposing, like last time, get that kind hurricane like that, eh? It spoil all the rice field. The rice never grow. That means the price of rice come high, eh? But he don't know. My father don't know. Plenty people harvesting not enough rice because of the hurricane like that, so the price is high. I read the newspaper in the school. The prices, they high. "But the Chinese, they fool you. Might as well quit selling," I tell him. Then after, finally, he believe me. So, he quit. He went to the country and he take care of our land over there. That's how. That's why, when I went to school, I never had good education because we don't have enough money, eh?

FZ: What was your father's name?

FC: Basilio dela Cruz.

FZ: And your mother?

FC: Francisca Limos.

FZ: What were the names of your father's parents?

FC: Ah, I don't know much about the parents. My father's father is, looks like, Lorenzo dela Cruz, eh? And the mother is Theodora Kilahosen.

FZ: What were they doing?

FC: Oh, I don't know. They are old.

FZ: How about the names of your mother's parents?

FC: They all went to Camiling. They are from the Ilocos, you know. My mother's parents are from Tagudin. But my father is from Ilocos Sur. That. . . . What you call it, in Ilocos Sur? Near to Vigan?

FZ: Bantay?

FC: Bantay, yeah. Ah, Caoayan.

FZ: Caoayan?

FC: Caoayan, Ilocos Sur. And they all migrate in Camiling. They were born in there. My father and mother, born in there. That's how they meet.

FZ: How about your mother's parents? What were they called?

FC: My mother's parents, the old man is Don Francisco Limos. The father. But I don't know the mother.

FZ: What were they doing?

FC: Oh, they are landowners because they are ones who cleared the land in Camiling. That old man, you know why he become rich? You know what, according to my mother, that's why he own plenty land and plenty animals. When he tired and he sleep, he use that coconut shell as a pillow. When his head fall down, that means he wake up, he work already. So, nighttime or early in the morning, he work. When the sun up already, then he stop, he go sleep. But most times, he work at night in the evening or else early in the morning. Not like some other people. Him, he get plenty land, that old man. Don Francisco Limos. And there are three sisters. They help the father to haul all the product in town. All the ladies.

FZ: How large was the farmland of your father?

FC: I don't know how many. . . . They don't call land in the Philippines by acre, eh?

FZ: Hectare?

FC: Hectare. They call by how they were. They divided into parcel like that, eh? Long parcel of land. They own plenty. About, so-many

hectares. I don't know exactly how much they get. They even have pasture lands in the hills. You know, we live by the Zambales Mountains, eh? They get plenty hills, low hills. When the planting season, they bring all the carabao in the hills. They get pasture lands over there. Then after harvesting, they bring them all down. So they come fat. They get plenty grass. That's how.

FZ: What [did] your father grow in his land?

FC: Oh, rice. That's all, rice.

FZ: And your mother? The same?

FC: The same. Because my mother raise pigs and chickens like that in the country. After they leave the selling business in town, they go back to the country. We own someplace by the brooks. Nice brooks they get, our land over there. Get plenty bamboo trees over there, all. All types of bamboo. We get the two kinds of bamboo. That. . . .

FZ: Buho?

FC: Yeah. All kinds. If they like eat the young shoot of the bamboo, they use it for cook.

FZ: Rabong?

FC: Rabong. They call "rabong." My father, he's taking care so many lands, but he only [has] one helper.

FZ: One tenant?

FC: One tenant. But when they plant, they hire somebody to plant.

FZ: Ah, mangmangged.

FC: Yeah. But plenty people go work during the planting season because my mother cook--kill one pig and cook nice food for them. In the evening, they make them drink.

FZ: Oh, ammuyo?

FC: No, they pay them.

FZ: Ah, it's not ammuyo.

FC: Yeah, they pay them. Ammuyo is that they no pay, they help each other. But my father no go help them. They [FC's family] only pay them. But they like to work for them [FC's family] because they get good food, and besides they treat them good, eh? In the evening already, when pau work, finish working, they [FC's family] give them good drink and good food. That's why.

FZ: How did you feel since you were part of such a large family? You were the twelfth child?

FC: No, I'm the. . . . I remember, one of the oldest sisters I know that died about ten years ago, the oldest one, she went to college. She's the only sister that went to college. But she never graduate because she get married. Oh, I get brother graduate in Pangasinan in Bayombong. The teacher's college, what you call that? He graduate. . . .

FZ: Normal.

FC: Normal School. He teach. But when he graduate, I was in Hawaii already. He teach about one year, and then he quit. He came and follow me in Hawaii. "Why did you leave your job?"

"Ah, I cannot stand because my students are all old people. They don't pay attention to [me] because I'm young," he said. "What's the use of teaching. You cannot teach them because they are hard-headed," he said.

FZ: How did you feel being the twelfth child in such a large family?

FC: Oh, I'm the spoiled child because, first, I was the only boy alive, that time. I get sisters like that. See? That time yet, my father is the good merchant, that time when I was young. We get one big dining table. Plenty people come eat over there. They get the cook to cook. And then, when they eat, me, I don't know why, when I was growing, I eat. I was the last one in the table. Then, they go there in the parlor. "You go see your brother if he still eating."

"He still eating."

"What? He still eating?" I was still eating.

FZ: Ah, really spoiled then.

FC: I can eat when I was young. And then, after that, I play that I sleep, yeah? [They say,] "Hey, he sleeping now. I carry him over here." They carry me. And then, they throw 'em inside the bed, eh? [They say,] "Hey, (chuckles) no throw him like that." Because they know that I never sleep. I don't sleep. I fool them, you know. I was spoiled.

FZ: Since you were the only male, what were your responsibilities towards your other siblings? Towards your sisters?

FC: Oh, my sisters . . .

FZ: What were your responsibilities?

FC: My responsibility, help clean the floor, because we get big house,

eh? My sister, the oldest sister, mean to me. She pinch me if I don't. So, what I do, I call my boy friends. Come, call to help me.

FZ: You would clean the floor with banana leaves?

FC: Banana leaf. Big floor, like that.

FZ: What was your house like?

FC: Big house. That's the one they build, that house. We get a big house, two-story house like this. And a big parlor. [And the kitchen] get long house. The kitchen big--long, too, because they used to entertain so many people, eh? That's how I remember.

FZ: The windows are of capiz? Capiz windows?

FC: Yeah. Nice windows.

FZ: Large sala?

FC: Yeah, large parlor.

FZ: Plenty furniture?

FC: Plenty furniture, you know. That's why, when I was growing already, the first time they bring the silent picture over there, our place. The Chinese man, the richest man over there, is a good friend to my father. And then get no more chairs. They [i.e., the Chinese man] borrow plenty chairs, our chairs. And then, get free ticket. I go. We go. I like see, eh? Oh, that's the time when I was greenhorn. When the train coming like that [in the movie], I go hide. The train, see? The story of the cowboy, like that, ah, I go hide. That's how greenhorn I was that time.

FZ: In your house, what was your source of water?

FC: Oh, we get from the river. We live by the river. Our drinking water---oh, we get our well by the house. But our well, the taste no good, so the helpers in the house, the two ladies, they dig well by the sand and then they take the water [from] over there. That's our drinking water, see? When they wash the clothes, go by the river because [the house] near the river.

FZ: How about the lighting?

FC: Oh, we get the lamp. But we get light by the kerosene, eh? Kerosene lamp. But . . .

FZ: Kingke?

FC: Yeah, kingke. But finally my father bought that kind lamp like a

special lamp that they pump for air and get something kinda bright, you know. Nice, that kind. I don't know the kind. That's our light.

FZ: Petromaks?

FC: Yeah.

FZ: What were your games as a kid?

FC: Oh, me, that was a naughty boy. I was the worst kid in the group. Our grandfather, he teach that kind self-defense with a knife. You know, bamboo.

FZ: Oh, arnis?

FC: Arnis. He's one of the professionals in that one. So, my father and brothers, they are all good. Because the profession of my father's side, looks like they use transportation. They get big boat, eh? And transport the merchandise from Camiling to the Dagupan. Because our river before used to go down to the Agno River and go to Dagupan. And get the steamboat going up in our river, Camiling before, the town. When I was young. Oh, that I remember.

FZ: So, you would . . .

FC: So, according to my father, finally, the third brother to him became the general. General Clemente Cruz, this one. Clemente Cruz. And during the Spanish-American War, he the one responsible of killing all the heroes of the Civil War in America. He's the one responsible killing them. Because they don't know the tactic of the one in the war--jungle war . . .

FZ: Guerilla?

FC: . . . in the Philippines. And you know already, they get factions, like that, eh? Our family one of the strongest families over there. They know self-defense. So, finally, after the war, according to my father, when the Americans land in the Philippines already, they all around. All the guerillas, they all run away in the mountains. They hide. And then, finally, they get proclamation telling that all the guerilla members before, so long they surrender peacefully, they give them amnesty. So, my father don't believe that before. He don't believe. Finally, plenty people come back already. So, finally, he pity my uncle hiding in the mountains--in Zambales Mountains. He [FC's father] know where he [FC's uncle] stay. So, he went and follow him. "Hey, brother, you better come home. These Americans are very good. They had a proclamation that, ah Pronounce amnesty for all those guerillas, so long you peacefully surrender." So, it takes long time before he came back. And then, he came home, and he surrender. But the enemy family,

that time, they are the one who controlling the government under the rule of the Americans. They hide the proclamation. Before [the proclamation], anybody whom they capture, they will assassinate by hanging. But when the amnesty come, supposed to not to worry. But when he [FC's uncle] came, when he went surrender, they hang him. And after he died already, then they bring out the proclamation. Since that time, my father hate the Americans.

FZ: Going back to your other games, what other games did you play as a boy?

FC: Oh, yeah, me. Swimming, boxing, wrestling.

FZ: Oh, boxing?

FC: Wrestling, too much. Because I live by the river, the sandy place. That's the place when the boys from the field bring their carabao or cow to our river, they like to ruin our games all in our neighborhood. We play with the girls. Oh, I used to wrestle with them because they are depending upon me. I'm the naughtiest one, eh? Oh, even though they bury my head inside the sand, still I fight. That's why I learn how to wrestle. (Chuckles) Finally, I get one boy from the country, skinny guy, and he wrestle me. He beat me every time. And then, I found out. I found the trick. He smart, you know. He know how to tap your knee. He try that from behind. That's why, be careful with that. That's why you no put your head close to him, like that. You watch him all the time. That's how I learn how to wrestle as young boy. That's all I do. Wrestling, and boxing, and running.

Play volleyball and that kind basketball in the school. In the school, finally, I attended. . . . I know, like this, first time. One boy used to play. But in my young days, my father send me to school, the Spanish school.

FZ: Oh, elementarya.

FC: No, in the private school, in the house. Professor over there. But I cannot learn nothing, because all they learn how to read. Read the Spanish, I can read the Spanish. What is the meaning of that word? They don't teach you the regular one. So, finally, I get playmate, like that. Ah, Cayetano, the name. And he went to school about one month. And when we play, "Hey, Fermin." He try to argue. He say, "You go school long time already I see you go school. But now I beat you." Ah, I don't know. Because in that one, I don't know because I no go school in the English school. But anyway, he say, "How do you spell 'girl'?" I tell him in Ilocano I don't know. "Ah, easy. Girly, girl," he said. "How you spell 'boy'? Boy, boy." He said, "How you spell 'pig'? Piggy, pig." So, I run home already, "Hey, Daddy, I like go school in the English school."

"Why?"

"You know Cayetano, the stupid one? He beat me. Only one month in the school, he beat me."

"Why you like go school? You know, my son, impossible to let you go school because they are the one who assassinated my brother. Your uncle was a famous general during the war. When he surrender himself, they assassinate him. That's why, I hate the Americans."

But finally, I found out that it's not the Americans, you see. The family, certain family here, they are the one [who killed FC's uncle]. Because they are the controlling family before. Because they are the intellectuals, that time, those people. And they are the one who did that to him.

FZ: So you went to the public school?

FC: I went to public school. That's why. And then, I was promoted fast because I know how to read.

FZ: Then, high school.

FC: Yeah, went to high school.

FZ: How come you stopped after high school?

FC: Finally, I went to Tarlac. But we get no enough money already. When I went over there, I get sick every time. So, finally when I came back, one lawyer in Tarlac form a school. He call that Camiling Academy. Secondary school. So, I went to school over there. And they get the same curriculum with the public school. We get our ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] and da kine over there. That's where I graduate. I became a captain of the ROTC. Nice school we get, that time.

FZ: So, for a while, you were. . . . So, you went to school, private maestro. Private teacher.

FC: Yeah, when I was young boy.

FZ: Then you went to the public school.

FC: Public school.

FZ: Then you went to Tarlac?

FC: Tarlac. And I go high school. First year in high school.

FZ: Then back to Camiling?

FC: Back to Camiling.

FZ: Oh, I see.

FC: And then, there, I graduate. When I just graduate, that's when I help Mr. [Ernesto] Quirino. That's when they proclaim that they should give title to every land.

FZ: Torrens (title to the land)?

FC: Ah, wen (yes) that one. So, nobody take care his office. His office boys are old men. But they are not honest. Any case [people] bring over there, [office boys] give to another lawyer and sell that case. He found out because when they go in the court already, [people] go see him. "Hey, Attorney Quirino, how come? I went to your office. How I came different lawyer now? I want you to be my lawyer." See, plenty of them. Ah, so, that's why. [Quirino thinks,] "I cannot trust these people over here." That's why, he ask information [about FC] over there. "Oh, we get one [i.e., a person who could help Quirino] over here. The father is from Caoayan, Ilocos Sur." Because Quirino is from Caoayan, too. So he come see me. But I was going to Manila already.

FZ: You were going to Manila?

FC: Well, I was going to Manila because I get auntie over there.

FZ: Oh, for college?

FC: To go school, yeah. For college. But he [Quirino] stop me. "Stay with me for a while, you must learn." Ah, so. In the meantime when I was working with him, here, sometimes I go to Tarlac. I go to Paniqui, Moncada, Gerona, Guimba.

FZ: What were you doing for him?

FC: Oh, it was like--not exactly clerk, but I'm not smart too much. I interview the customers, and call all the customers, like that. See, the client. His clients in Camiling, because the judge is in Camiling at the time. And then, he stay in Tarlac. All the correspondence from that one, they all come in his office in Camiling. But then, I relay that to him [Quirino]. I call by phone. Certain day, they get the case like that. And then, when they get big case in Paniqui, I go again in Paniqui. Moncada like that, go Moncada.

FZ: And Ernesto Quirino was the eldest brother?

FC: Yeah.

FZ: Of the president [of the Philippines]?

FC: President. The oldest brother of the Quirinos. They were the first pensionado sent by the government in America.

FZ: That's quite a job.

FC: He took care. Elpidio [president of the Philippines, 1947-53]. When Elpidio [Quirino] became candidate, the first candidate as a diputado, he went help in Ilocos, I heard. But sometimes, they send me telegram to send money. So, I go collect money from the clients and I send by telegram. They work hard when Elpidio become. . . . What you call?

FZ: Representative?

FC: Representative.

FZ: What were you planning to study in Manila?

FC: Oh, I don't know what I planned to study. Because I'm not sure what I should study that time.

FZ: Fresh out of high school.

FC: Yeah.

FZ: What was your parents' religion?

FC: Catholic. All Catholic. Because Camiling, only lately they get this Protestant and Aglipayano, like that. This Aglipayano is from Catholic, eh?

FZ: Yeah, that's right. Who was the patron saint of your town?

FC: San Miguel. Our town fiesta over there is May the 8th.

FZ: How was the fiesta?

FC: Oh, very good, you know. Our fiesta. That's when all the town people, they spend plenty money. Because plenty visitors from other towns, they come over there. We get five big band in Camiling, Tarlac. They are professionals. They are members of the kostabularia. The old members of the kostabularia. They retire. They came in Camiling, and they shape their own band. Get four band, you know, over there. Oh, they get one of the best band. Every corner in Camiling, they get orchestra. Yeah, orchestra.

FZ: And the procession.

FC: Oh, yeah. During the fiesta over there, in the morning, every morning like that, on the first of May until the eighth. On the first of May, every morning, one band play around early in the morning. Diana. They go . . .

FZ: Oh, diana?

FC: Diana. They go around. And then, another band again. Hoo, we get. That's why, plenty people come over there. Nice fiesta, we get, Camiling.

FZ: Plenty of food, eh?

FC: Plenty food. They spend plenty money. But, you know, one time, one rich man over there--I forget his family. Santos, I think. Rich millionaire. He's a stingy guy, but the wife is very good. The last time, he like to become president. The last time already, he said. He appeal to the people. "Please, my last time. How many years I been candidate, you people don't like me. But please elect me now so then when the town fiesta, nobody spend nothing. I take care," he said. Sure enough, the people think. "You must think yourself that every year you work hard, save plenty money, but explode all that money during the town fiesta. But now, if you appoint me as the president, I take care the town. Nobody spend nothing."

And the people, they said, "We try."

"You try me," he said. "Even one time, you try me."

So, when the town fiesta come like that, he claim no more fiesta.

FZ: Really?

FC: Ah, really, the people, they all disappointed.

FZ: Mad, yeah?

FC: You know what the band play? They play the punyebre. They play punyebre every morning.

FZ: How was Christmas celebrated at Camiling?

FC: Oh, good, the Christmas. Christmas celebration good, very good. You know, regular. You know, the Spanish, they continued the one, the Spanish kwan, ah, before, the people. Nice, the people.

FZ: Parol?

FC: Yeah, get parol, like that. They make parol.

FZ: Misa del gallo?

FC: Yeah, misa del gallo, like that. When I go to church like that misa del gallo, my father carry me around his neck because plenty people. You know our church in Camiling? Big church, we get. That Camiling church, I don't know now, because long time I don't go. Big. During the fiestas, all full. You got no more room. So, he carry me. I no can see, eh? I remember all those things.

FZ: And gifts?

FC: Oh, yeah, gifts.

FZ: From your ninong?

FC: Yeah, they give. You know, the regular kind in the Philippines.

FZ: Was it the custom in your family to give gifts to the children during Christmas?

FC: I don't really know, that one. I don't remember they giving gifts to the children. Not like in Hawaii. Only in Hawaii, that one.

FZ: Who would give gifts to you at Christmas time?

FC: Oh, our aunties, you know.

FZ: How about Holy Week? How was it celebrated?

FC: Holy Week is, oh, solemnly they celebrate. In our group like that, all my relatives and the one all in our neighborhood, we belong to the butcher house over there, where they kill the pig. You know how many pigs they kill every day? Plenty. On Sundays, they get sixty. Three cows or four carabao, like that. During those, Thursday and Sunday, the big market day in our place, all the people from the country, they all come buy, sell their product like that.

FZ: During Holy Week, Good Friday, you could not speak, eh?

FC: You can, but. . . . You cannot even eat meat on Friday. But us children, we no pay attention. One time, my sister and me, the two of us, we are naughty. Our mother is in the parlor. Far, you know. And we in the kitchen. We cook that kind longaniza. That one, good, the way they make, longaniza. We find that one. My mother come. I watch, eh? "Mama's coming." Quick we take that longaniza, put on the plate and cover with the rice. "You cook longaniza?"

"No, why?"

"No can tell me 'no,' because I smell." She can smell it in the stove, she said.

No, maybe the lard fall down on top. She look, but she no dig inside. If she dig inside (chuckles), and then like that. Then we laugh and we eat. How naughty we were, that time.

And the worse part I remember when I was young boy. We get so many visitors from Ilocos. They come sell cloth, and they sell that kind mortar made of stone.

FZ: Almires?

FC: No, the big kind, you know.

FZ: Alsong?

FC: Alsong. They call "alsong." And then, they sell over there. And then, these ladies, they smoke that kind cigar. Big kind cigar, like this. Big like this. And I hate them, because I no like the smell. So, when they eat, our dining table here and get separate over here, the kitchen, the stove. And they put all their cigars outside. And I was naughty. When they eating, they call, call, I don't come. Finally, when they busy eating, I go climb on the other side. And I put chili pepper on all of them. Fill up with the chili pepper. And then, they pau eat like that, then I run away. They call, call, call for me.

(Visitor arrives and greets FC.)

FC: When I see them finish eating, I come home from far. They no can blame me because I came from the other side. They no see me go inside there. They no can blame. "We know this boy is a naughty boy, but we cannot blame him because he is from far away."

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

FZ: Supposing somebody died in your barrio? What would your neighbors do? If somebody died?

FC: Oh, same thing. When somebody die in the barrio, you understand in the Philippines, they keep in the house of the one. People go visit and they cry, cry over there. And then the following day, they bring him to the one, huh? That's where they bury. They keep in the house of the one nighttime for viewing.

FZ: Did you have this custom called ammong?

FC: Yeah. They contribute, eh? Same thing what we do over here.

FZ: What kind of contribution?

FC: Oh, some, they give money. Most times, they give rice or any kind, or something to eat. They entertain their people. They kill pig or something like that. Goat.

FZ: Where did you get to meet Leona?

FC: Oh, Leona? When I was going to school, my neighbor teach at the intermediate school. So, I had something to do with how he met his wife. His girlfriend is a daughter of a rich man over there. That

Kapampangan family. But beautiful girl, you know. But this one, they get grudge against Ilocanos. They no like. This boy [FC's neighbor], schoolteacher, he used to be a good baseball player before. He correspond with this girl. They [the girl's family] own store, big store, over there. They keep the wife[-to-be] away. They send [her] to Batangas. Because they live in Batangas. And they confiscate all letters. They talk to the postmaster [and] they confiscate all those letters. So, he [FC's neighbor] no can do nothing. But my mother is a good friend to the mother of the lady [i.e., the girl]. So, I go in the store, Sunday time. But when they see my name [on letters to the girl], that's all right, because that's a friend of the family. I write to her, but I put his [FC's neighbor's] letter inside. When they receive in Batangas, that's not--Alejandro Guerrero, the name, you know--not Alejandro Guerrero. So, the relationship come tight and tight. So, after two years, they send her back. Because no more already, because no more letter. So, finally, they get married through me.

FZ: Oh, you were the one who helped.

FC: Yeah, helped. So, when he was teaching over there, he get the naughty students, you know. One of them is my wife [Leona]. He tell me, "Hey, Cruz." Because me, I'm not fooling around, you know. I get plenty sisters. I'm used to with the sisters. I'm not interested in the girls that time. "You come here and I introduce you to the girls over here," he said.

"Ah. I not interested." So, I went. He introduced me to them, to these girls. Get plenty girls. But I notice her every time. She's the naughtiest among them, you know. So, finally, he asked me to go in their house. Every time he go in the house, she hide. She no like because teacher stay, eh? And I been tell her that I get one already. I went visit myself already and I get used to. I get plenty neighbors, rich neighbors. They are rich and beautiful, but I don't know. I get no feeling about them. You know how I know these girls, our neighbors? We got one priest over here. He likes to visit, this Padre Anselmo Lazo is the name. He's a brilliant Catholic priest, you know. He smart. Preach in Latin, Spanish, English, Ilocano. Oh. And he argue with all our--I go follow him every time--argue with the other sects. Other religion. Protestant, Seventh-Day Adventists, and Aglipayano. They no can beat him.

FZ: And your wife?

FC: So, finally, I go visit them. The parents no like me. I was thinking, I like marry her, marry this girl. This naughty girl, but I like. She get plenty aunties and cousins like that, beautiful ones, but I don't know why I like her. See? Because she's naughty, like that. Then, just like that, they call me. "Hey, Mr. Cruz, eh, we go." Sometime about eleven of them or ten of them. Aunties. Come over there. And then, Leona tell me, "Don't come with the boys." Because in the afternoon, plenty boys go over there. Only

me go nighttime. But the father is a mortician. They get that kind carroza for the dead in front of the house. I scared, before. If I scared, I cannot marry this girl. So, that's why I go. And eventually, we get married because the lawyer tell me to better get married. So I get married to her. Then, when we get this baby, she wanted him to be a lawyer. "How can [I educate him to] be a lawyer when my salary is small?" That's why I came to Hawaii.

But I get hard time in Hawaii that time. So finally, I work in that pineapple cannery. They call "CPC." California Packing Corporation in Kahului. That's why, I work over there so many years. I became foreman in the platform that time. And finally, depression come, they close. They close the one.

FZ: Before you married Leona, did you have to give her any sab-ong?

FC: My house.

FZ: Oh, that was your sab-ong?

FC: Yeah. My house.

FZ: The house of your father?

FC: Yeah, the house. Because I already have that one, ah. So, I live in the house.

FZ: Oh, how about your sisters?

FC: My sisters, they stay. But they get no claim on the house, eh? My father give me that house.

FZ: How about rice lands?

FC: Rice lands, no more. Because they sold all the land. Because of that--I tell you, eh? They get some, but they mortgaged. That's why, he cannot give me that one. He get land in San Clemente. They get land only for houses like that. Houses. That's all he get. No more. So, I came to Hawaii because I cannot send the boy through education. And then, when the depression come, they close the cannery. And then, finally, the insurance company of the Philippines--Insular Life Insurance Company of the Philippines came to Hawaii, I became one of the agents.

FZ: Going back to your wedding, what was the celebration like of your wedding?

FC: Oh. The wedding with Leona? Like this. That time, the marriage supposed to be long time already. We postpone, postpone every time because Quirino is busy in Tarlac. So, he cannot come in Camiling. So, finally, he said, "Ah, Fermin. I get no more time because I get no more schedule to go in Camiling. I get plenty big cases in

Tarlac. So why not convince your in-laws and bring your wife over here?"

"Ah, that one, I cannot do that. Because they don't even like me. The mother don't like me. Only the father like me. But the mother don't like me."

"Hey, what's the matter with you? How long you stay with me already? You still cannot convince that? Only one lady you cannot convince? Yet you convince plenty." Because sometimes, I interview plenty clients to go to the court, and I help him. "You cannot convince one lady? Shee, boy. Why, you want to marry her?"

"Yeah, I want."

"Shee, you go. No scared if they scold you. It's all right."

So, I went. Ah, the lady no like. The mother. "We no like go to Tarlac because by and by they think that Leona is pregnant."

So, I tell her, "If you really love us as your son and daughter, why not complete your love by helping us get married?"

I get my uncle over here, get car. So, my uncle bring us over there, and we get married. And then, that day, all the courts in Tarlac are busy, so we went to Paniqui. We get married in Paniqui. By the judge in Paniqui. Then we went back to Tarlac. Then we sleep over there and then came home. And then, when we came home, I was surprised. Our house get plenty people. Because I get my sisters over there, live. Ah, they kill pig. My grandmothers like that, and my uncles, they donate pig like that. You know, that goat. They cook. Big celebration over there. That's how. (Chuckles)

FZ: So, did you get eventually married in the church?

FC: I never did get married in the church.

FZ: Oh, never?

FC: Never. We are Catholic, but we didn't get married in the. . . .

FZ: So, you had a son. And then. . . .

FC: And then, when the son was born. . . .

FZ: Eliseo?

FC: Eliseo. Oh, I came to Hawaii.

FZ: The next year.

FC: The following year, yeah.

FZ: What year was that again?

FC: I came to Hawaii 1926.

FZ: Nineteen twenty. . . .

FC: Twenty-six. I arrived in Honolulu August the 5th, 1926. And then, went to Maui. Through Lahaina, then from Lahaina to Wailuku. That's where I stay, Wailuku. I stayed there long time until I finally found the work in the cannery [California Packing Corporation].

FZ: Could you describe how you heard about Hawaii?

FC: Oh, you know how I heard about it? I read the newspaper every time. This [Cayetano] Ligot wrote a article in the newspaper. They call Free Press. He said that, "I invite you Filipinos who are willing to work and want to earn good money to come to Hawaii. Because although there are Filipinos over here, boy they are lazy. We get good pay over there. These people over here, they get woolen suit, nice clothes, and they earn plenty money. Why don't you come?" So, with that idea. And then, somebody from here before, they spend all their money over there. He start go back. "Why, you come with us." That's how I came to Hawaii.

And then, when I write to Hawaii, I was asking job from the one, they no like. Because they no believe the Filipinos are educated. You go to the plantations. But I don't go to the plantation because I never worked in the plantation, in the field. I don't know how to cut grass. So, I stay home, cook for those men. I cook for them, you know. And they are so happy because I cook for them. But I did not come over here to be cook. Although they give me money, though. Seven of them.

FZ: Oh. You were cooking?

FC: No, they no tell me to cook. But they give me money. I get money. What I going do all day over there? Might as well I go cook for them with the money. So, I go cook. Oh, boy, they happy. They gave me more money. They gave me money in the morning, and they gave me in the evening again because they want me to go to the movies. But I no like go movies. Because those movies they show, I seen them in the Philippines already. So, finally, I work in that [pineapple] cannery.

FZ: So you were cooking for these men at Wailuku?

FC: Yeah, Wailuku.

FZ: Then you went to Kahului?

FC: Then I work in Kahului. Every morning I go Kahului. Because that's the cannery over there.

FZ: Going back to your trip, where did you catch your boat for Hawaii?

FC: Manila.

FZ: How was the trip?

FC: Oh, boy. That's the first time I ride the boat, eh? Oh, I die. Almost I die on the boat. Because I get seasick. So long the boat running, I lie down. And then, they can feed me cracker and tea. So, when we land in the port, in Hong Kong like that, then I go out on the deck. After that, when we go again, I stay down. We land in Shanghai, Yokohama. When we arrive, it took us seventeen days, I think, or eighteen days. From Manila to Honolulu. That's why, I promised to myself that now I live here, I no go home Philippines. If I ride the boat again like this, I going die if I go home Philippines. That's why, I know already, when I arrived here in Hawaii, I no go back. Because they no more plane, that time. I was not planning to go home already that time.

FZ: So you went to Maui.

FC: Yeah.

FZ: You worked at Wailuku, Kahului.

FC: That pineapple cannery [in Kahului]. And I was foreman in the platform.

FZ: How was the pay?

FC: Oh, small pay. The first pay I had, fourteen cents an hour. [Later] I was up to seventeen cents an hour. And when I got a foreman [job] already, it came up, quarter [i.e., twenty-five cents].

FZ: Were you able to save?

FC: Oh, I wasn't able to save because I send money to the Philippines every payday. No, every. . . . Because we get paid two times a week [FC may have meant two times a month], eh, that time. And then, one time, I send plenty money because we get that kind. . . . What you call? The Japanese [tanomoshi-ko]? Ammuyo, like that, that one. We paid twenty dollar and we select . . .

FZ: Oh, kompang?

FC: Kompang. We vote for the one who like receive the money first. And I was the one who first. I send that to the Philippines. They were surprised to receive that much money because, "How in the world he. . . . Yet the men who went with him, never send nothing yet. Him, he don't know how to work, he send plenty money." So, they always write to the man who came with me. That's why, he hate me. Because instead of sending the money, he flirt with the married

ladies, that one. He spend his money for the married ladies, but me, I no. . . . That's why, my cousins and my uncles came Hawaii and follow me.

And then, finally, when I was in insurance here already, I rented one house by the courthouse. And then, convert into bachelor's club already. Because all the intelligent Filipinos that no more work, they come stay with me. That's how I meet my wife, that one. The one in the picture over there. I divorced my wife in the Philippines and I marry her.

FZ: Could you describe this kompang? What was the purpose of the kompang?

FC: To send money to the Philippines.

FZ: Oh. How about for medical bills?

FC: We no more medical bill that time. We no get sick. I never get sick when I stay in the Philippines. Because we work hard.

FZ: Because I heard kompang is also for helping people who get sick or dying.

FC: No, different one. Now, eventually, they formed that kind of a society. They call that cooperative society. When you get sick or die like that, they help. But different than the first time. Looks like the Japanese. I forget the term in Japanese, that one. They get term, they borrow from the Japanese idea, you know.

FZ: How did you spend your free time in Maui?

FC: Oh, we go picnic, that's all. Sometimes, we go to the brooks, like that, to catch fish.

FZ: Who were your best friends in Maui?

FC: My best friends, my cousin. The one who follow me here in Hawaii. Marcelo Peralta. The mother is the sister of my father. He came. He's only the best friend I get.

FZ: How did Filipinos get along with non-Filipinos on Maui?

FC: That time, oh, they are good. That time was good.

FZ: The Japanese?

FC: The Japanese. Because that time, no more war yet, in the Philippines. They are in good terms. But only thing, the Japanese, they look down upon Filipinos. They no consider us person over here, before, or men. Look like as a dog, like that, or something. They no pay attention to us, you know.

FZ: How about the Chinese? How were the relationships?

FC: Same thing, Chinese. They look down upon Filipinos. The first time they respect Filipinos when the entertainers came over here. The Atang de la Rama.

FZ: Yeah, singers.

FC: They find out. They thought Filipinos are all dumb people. They don't know how to read, they don't know how to write, they don't know how to speak English. When they saw Atang de la Rama come over here, they sing like that, eh? They play--they bring the string band.

FZ: Suprised them.

FC: And the comedian like that, they were surprised. That's the time when they respect Filipinos.

FZ: How about with Portuguese?

FC: All same. Same.

FZ: Haoles.

FC: The Portuguese? Oh, the haoles are good. Very good to the Filipinos. But the Portuguese, I understand. And then one Portuguese man, we rented his house. This Portuguese own plenty houses in Wailuku. Nice place, he get. Nice location. Near to the road, and near to the market, near to the church. Old man, Mr. Ferreira. "Can you rent me one of your cottages?"

"No. I no like rent to Filipino."

"Why?"

"Filipinos no good."

And then, me, "You mean to say that all Portuguese are good?"

"No, no, no, no," he said.

"See? Maybe there are Filipinos who are no good, but there are Filipinos good. Same thing with the Portuguese. There are good Portuguese and no good Portuguese."

"That's right, that's right," he said.

"Why you no try me? I'm a young boy." I was a young man. "I get steady job in the CPC [California Packing Corporation]. I work every day. You know I work still yet. But you know [the experienced] people you get, you allow those gamblers to rent your house. The

gamblers, they get no more work. If they no can win, they no can pay the rent. And then, after that, they no can pay the rent, they leave the house already. You no can find them. But me, I give you down payment. How's that?" Oh, I had hard time to convince him. So I convince him, then he went along. Every payday, I pay him.

"Oh, you find some more boys."

So, I find some more boys to rent the house. And then, I collect the money for him. Oh, he like. So, finally, he got no more house, he get one room--the house he rent me. He set aside one special room for him. Tell him to go stay in my room. But every time he come from far place to repair all the one over here, he bring his food. So I tell him every time to eat with us. He no like. What's the matter with this old man? He no like eat with us. So what I did, I throw away his food. I throw in the slop. When time eat, "Get food?"

"I no more already. The dog eat 'em."

"You come eat with us."

You know, when he eat with us, he was surprised. "Hey," he said. "Your table looks like more better than the rich. We no can eat like this," he said. "You know why I no like eat before with you? Because the Filipinos eat grass, they said."

"You believe that Ilocanos, Filipinos, eat grass? If we eat grass, how can we work hard? We are hardworking people, you know. How do you believe that Filipinos no eat good? How can they work hard?" So, from that time, he respect the Filipinos.

FZ: How many were you in that house?

FC: Eight.

FZ: Oh, eight Filipinos. All men?

FC: All are working. Yeah, all men.

FZ: How did Ilocanos get along with Visayans?

FC: Oh, they are good friends. Yeah. At that time, they are good, you know.

FZ: I heard sometimes there were . . .

FC: No, they are good.

FZ: . . . conflicts between the . . .

FC: Only they conflict with those rough people before. Because the

Visayans, they claim that Visaya are better wrestler or better in self-defense than Ilocanos. But they are plenty good Ilocanos, you know. They get along all right until after the war [World War II]. [Because of wartime,] the Filipinos, they hate the Japanese. They like kill them.

FZ: What inspired you to start a bachelor's club?

FC: Oh, I did not start. Plenty educated Filipinos, they cannot work in the plantation. They come to Hawaii. They stay in my house. My house is free, eh? I no more lock. Everybody go sleep over there. And then, finally, they say, every time we go dances like that, the dances no good because they make trouble. They fight over there. "Why don't we form our club, bachelor's club, where we handle all these girls." They no can invite no girls. So, we tell them that anybody who like join the bachelor's club dance, they got to use necktie. So, clean clothes and necktie. Only coat. Only necktie. That's how. Ho, we invite all the Filipinos. Girls with the Filipino blood.

FZ: How about tennis club?

FC: Yeah, we play tennis. Because I live by the tennis court, eh? So, we play. Plenty Filipinos learn how to play tennis. So, we formed our. . . . When I got the medal, they said, "We better put a tennis club." That's why, when we get the bachelor's club, the tennis club, we entertain the---you know the life insurance company before invited the baseball player come to play in Hawaii. We were the one entertaining, you know.

FZ: You were working first, cook boy and cannery. When did you become insurance?

FC: Oh, when they closed the cannery.

FZ: What year was that?

FC: Oh, 1931, I think. Thirty-one or '32.

FZ: Insurance agent for what company?

FC: The Insular Insurance Company of the Philippines. The Hawaii Life now over here. That's the one.

FZ: You were their agent in . . .

FC: I was their first agent. We get hard time. So, since we could not sell enough before, you know Mr. (Earl Carol). Who's that, our manager here before? Forget his name already. We get convention every time before Christmas in Honolulu and invite all the high producers. Invite them to lecture on us. One Chinese million-dollar producer lecture on us and ask question, "What is your trouble in why you no

can sell?"

"Because the Filipino no believe in insurance. They think that when you buy insurance, looks like you sell your life."

"No, no. Same thing, my trouble with the Chinese. Same thing," he said. "They no like buy insurance, because when they buy insurance, looks like they sell their life. No emphasize the life insurance. You sell them savings. Because if (you) talk about savings, everybody, (all) people are interested in savings. And yet, that's the most important thing, savings. So, that's how."

FZ: How did you get meet your second wife, Elaine?

FC: That's how. In the bachelor's club. She's our hula dancer, entertainer. She sing in the radio for the KGU. But get only one before. That's the one, KGU. She played guitar and banjo. She's the most smart in play. She sing. Ilocano, Hawaiian, English, she sing. She's the most attractive among the ones. That's why, I get . . .

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

FZ: So, she was singing on the radio. And she's half-Chinese?

FC: Half Filipino, quarter Hawaiian, quarter Chinese. Because the mother is half Chinese, half Hawaiian. And the father is a Caviteneno. So, she's half Filipino; she's quarter Hawaiian, quarter Chinese. But she speak Ilocano.

FZ: Ah, she spoke Ilocano?

FC: Oh, fluently.

FZ: What was your sab-ong to her?

FC: Nothing. Because I'm not a rich man. I'm only selling insurance. She helped me in selling insurance. Because when I go sell insurance, I cannot sell to the couple, you know. The couple, the one, they get plenty money. The man tell me, "I am convinced that I'm interested in buying insurance but my wife is the one who hold the money." See, when I go talk to her, the lady, she take all her dirty clothes, she go to the washhouse. I shame to go follow her there. So, I before long I get married. That's how. More better I marry this girl, because smart, eh? So, she's the type, oh, we sell plenty. Because I talk to the man, and she talk to the lady.

FZ: How was the wedding celebration?

FC: There was no such celebration already. We just get married.

FZ: Where did you get married?

FC: Over there, in that one. In Wailuku.

FZ: A judge?

FC: Yeah. Simple, the judge.

FZ: Wedding party afterwards?

FC: No more party. I used to sell insurance. We go work, that's how. Finally, I get sick. When I get sick, I lost my contract. That's how I came to Honolulu. Then I work in that Hawaiian Army and Air Force Exchange.

FZ: Pacita was born in 1939?

FC: In 1939 in Maui.

FZ: Fermin?

FC: Even Fermin, in Maui. Nineteen forty. Because at the end of '40, we came. Because [Fermin] Junior was born in June.

FZ: They were born in Kahului?

FC: No, Junior born in Puunene. But Pacita born in Wailuku. They get hospital in Wailuku, eh? But Junior born in Puunene because I get good doctor. My friend, doctor, he tell me, "When your wife next time give birth." Because Pacita was a Caesarean operation. She was born crooked. Turn backward. Maybe looks like lesson given to me by God, I think. Because I left my wife in the Philippines. So, this baby crooked, you know. Turn backward inside. That's why, instead of going out, no can go out because curl like this inside. When came out, the doctor tell me, "Sign this. And then I operate the neck."

"No, no, no, Doctor. No like."

"Why? You like this girl grow like that when she grow?"

"Yeah, but if cut the neck, it's a beautiful girl and make like that? You ruin her body." So, I believe in exercise. What I did, every morning and afternoon, I exercise her. Three months, I no sleep. Put big pillow like this. And I make her lie down. Straight like that. When she curl like this, I straighten like that. Until finally come straight.

FZ: Her body?

FC: Oh, yeah. Natural.

FZ: Oh, wonderful.

FC: Yeah, wonderful. And then, when my wife bring to the clinic. "Hey, is this the girl?"

"Yeah."

"What happened?"

"Oh, my husband. He exercise her during morning and afternoon," she said.

FZ: Exercise the neck?

FC: I hold the body. The neck is the one, I turn like this and make like this. Because the body still soft, eh? The bones are still soft. Easy to straighten . . .

FZ: You would bend it?

FC: Yeah, bend like that. She cry like that.

FZ: Well, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 11-41-2-84 and 11-42-2-84

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Fermin Cruz (FC)

February 29, 1984

Kalihi, Oahu

BY: Fernando Zialcita (FZ)

FZ: This is a taped interview with Fermin Cruz, February 29, 1984, at Kalihi, Oahu.

The child was Fermin [Junior]?

FC: Fermin. Was born in Puunene, that one. In Maui.

FZ: In Maui. Was he born at home or in the hospital?

FC: In the hospital. All of them in the hospital. They get hospital in Wailuku, eh? And then, hospital in Puunene. Big hospital, that one. Under the plantation, eh, before. Puunene Plantation.

FZ: Please describe some of the birth practices. Some of the birth practices that took place when your sons were born.

FC: Oh, she's all right because the doctor was a good doctor that time. They thought that my wife cannot have a regular birth already because she get Caesarean operation, eh? But the doctor, my friend before, I sell insurance, eh? And he said, "Bring to me and I take care. Your wife has a nice body. Real nice build. She have that kind regular birth." So, he was born regularly.

FZ: Fermin?

FC: Fermin.

FZ: I wanted to ask about the balitang.

FC: What is that?

FZ: That's a practice in Ilocos Norte, where the . . .

FC: Oh, in the Philippines, eh?

FZ: Yeah.

FC: Oh, they get that kind midwife. In the Philippines, get . . .

FZ: It's a bed, right? For Ilocanos when they deliver.

FC: They deliver. And after they deliver already, they make the bed high, eh?

FZ: Was that used by used by Leona? When she gave birth to Eliseo?

FC: Yeah, when she gave birth to Eliseo. In the house, that's why, not in the hospital.

FZ: But, of course, in the case of your children . . .

FC: All hospital.

FZ: Could you describe the baptismal party for Fermin? His baptism and his baptismal party.

FC: Oh, baptismal party. In here. In Honolulu. Outside the Shafter. Those houses outside Fort Shafter, because we rented house over there. And then, we invited the people from Maui because they are the people we only know them, eh? To be the godfather. Then we get big party. We kill pig, all kind. Pig party, we had. By the house we rented over there. We get huli-huli chicken and all kind.

FZ: Who were your kompadres and komadres?

FC: My kompadre is. . . . (I forgot). But Junior, one lady, our neighbor. Mrs. . . . I forget the name already, long time. Filipino lady married to a part-Hawaiian/part-Filipino.

FZ: And your kompadre?

FC: Kompadre is that guy, John Arafles.

FZ: From where?

FC: From here used to be. Oh, oh, from Maui, before.

FZ: John is Filipino?

FC: Yeah, he married to a Chinese lady. Used to be a police officer, before.

FZ: So you had only one kompadre?

FC: Yeah, one kompadre, only one.

FZ: The reason I ask is because some Filipinos have so many kompadres.

FC: Yeah, they get so many. I don't like that kind. Besides, almost

war [World War II] already, that time. Almost the war already.

FZ: Your daughter, Priscilla, was born in . . .

FC: Priscilla was born over here in (Kapiolani Hospital). . . . We were in Honolulu that time yet, same place.

FZ: [Nineteen] forty-two? In 1941, you transferred to Honolulu.

FC: Yeah.

FZ: What job were you able to get?

FC: I work in that Army and Air Force Exchange, eh? That was Air Force Exchange, that time. First, I work as a--what you call--checker in the warehouse. And then, I drive truck. I drive the manager of the warehouse because he's a retired Navy captain. Captain Noyes. He retired Navy. And at that time, our restaurant in there in Hickam is far place. So, I bring all that Captain Noyes with the girls working in the office, bring them to the restaurant to eat, and then come home. Eventually, I work so many places over there. Then, during the war, I used to watch. When the war broke out already, I used to take care one store in the segregated place where the soldiers watch the Air Force. And then where they fix the motor, air motor, over there. I sleep over there and work over there. Oh, I get hard time, that time, because I come home once in one week to change my clothes. I sleep over there and everything. Oh, hard. I was skinny. But finally, I could not stand that, I quit. I quit the store because the commanding officer in that place in the group made an arrangement with me that, "If my orderly boy come over here and I get visitors in my office, open your store and give him what [he] like." Yeah, you see. But finally, this orderly boy abuse his privilege. Instead of him come over here only by himself, he bring all the soldiers. And I have no time to rest. I have no time to take care my store. So, I told them, "From now on, you abuse your privilege to come here. I no like open already." So the commander came. "Hey, what's inside there, Mr. Cruz? Why you no open your store?"

"Because he abuse his rights." You know I'm alone over here. I take care. Even I close nighttime. Because the boys, they go over there and write letters to their parents. And at the same time, they eat snack, they drink coffee, they drink that kind Coke, sandwich, any kind candy, while they are writing. They go home late. I cannot sleep. In the morning time, early in the morning, they come again. I get no more time. Then I sell beer, too, eh? Hard, that time. So, the commander scold me. Because I told him, "If your orderly boy does not abuse his privilege to come over here, it's all right. But he abuse. Every time he bring plenty soldiers inside." When I am not open yet in the morning, early in the morning. That's the time when I'm taking a rest. And sometimes, fill up all my cooler, eh, with cool drinks and some beer. Because three o'clock in the

afternoon, I serve beer. Oh, hard.

FZ: So, this was a warehouse?

FC: No, not the warehouse. They built a store in the camp where the soldiers stay.

FZ: Oh, I see. So you had several jobs.

FC: Yeah.

FZ: You started as a checker for a warehouse, and then. . . .

FC: And then, finally, I . . .

FZ: Driver.

FC: Driver, truck, over there. And then, they station me over there, where they built one store. Special store, small store.

FZ: What were you doing in the store?

FC: I sell.

FZ: Oh, you were the seller?

FC: Yeah, I sell everything. Everything they need. Before that, before they build a store, they ask anybody who is willing to drive the truck to supply all those soldiers stationed in that place out on Hickam Field. If they stationed there they cannot go home and take a shirt or any kind. So, they asking if he is willing enough to go service those people. Nobody like because before, if they see you civilian like that, they shoot you first.

FZ: What?

FC: They shoot you before they ask questions.

FZ: Oh, no.

FC: Yeah, because they thought that when they attacked Pearl Harbor already some Japanese landed over here. They may make trouble there. So long you civilian, eh, harder. And then finally, I was thinking, I pity them because I see these people in there. They cannot come anyplace. Nobody sell them cold drink or sandwich if they hungry like that. I raise my hand. "Hey, you get the nerve, Mr. Cruz. What do you propose," he said.

"Well, I know that if any civilian running around in the field, they shoot first, I know."

"Are you not afraid?"

"I'm afraid, but then what I want you do is to give me Army truck and put big sign, 'Mobile Exchange.'" That's why. So, one Japanese boy and me, we went. The truck, eh? And then, when we go inside there, "Who is there?"

"Post Exchange. Mobile Exchange."

"What you have?"

"We get Coca-Cola, sandwich."

"Oh, come."

See? We go over there. And then, finally, in that place, the commander ask me, "Hey, Mr. Cruz, why don't you stay until late?"

"No, we are not allowed. Because any civilian they see after six o'clock, they shoot. I no like get shot over here."

"Why don't you ask permission from them to build one store over here?" You see, the commander. The head of the post exchange. So, he went and see. So he build one. But nobody like go over there. So, me the one they put over there.

FZ: So, that's where you stayed the whole day . . .

FC: That's why, in there.

FZ: You come back [home] only once a week.

FC: Honolulu, to change my clothes, that's all. I was skinny that time. And you know the road from Honolulu to Hickam only one road that time. Oh, small road. Take long time to go there, take long time to come home. See, before, no more . . .

FZ: No freeways.

FC: No more taxi, no more any kind, eh? No more freeway or da kine. Like now, get plenty roads over there already.

FZ: How did you feel about your job?

FC: Well, hard, but, you know, I get family to take care. I determined to And besides, before I came over here in Honolulu, I used to sell insurance in Maui. So, I learn about insurance. I'm thinking about my retirement---when I come old. What am I going to do when I come old? When I no work one place and retire over there? Get retirement pay. When I come old, nobody like employ me already. Yet who going support me? Nobody support me. So, I'm determined to work hard so I can retire over there and I get pension or something. That's why. Besides, I get family to take care. See? I get two children already that time. Two, bumbai get three, get four, get

You know, the stepladder like that?

FZ: This was in Kalihi?

FC: No, Honolulu. They call "Honolulu." Not only Kalihi. No more housing before. Hard.

FZ: Hard time.

FC: Hard, before. Then . . .

FZ: So, what happened to that house? That house near Fort Shafter?

FC: Oh, after the war, we move out from there.

FZ: That's when you bought the house?

FC: Yeah, we bought here. And the worst part, during the war, those people who don't cook at home, they depend upon the restaurant. When they finish working, they got no place to eat. Because blackout, eh?

FZ: Oh, yeah. That's right.

FC: So, hard, you know, before. So, my wife is very good. Because [when] the war broke out already she bought big pots. Because we have plenty [people] in the house. Plenty in the rooming house over there. . . .

FZ: Fort Shafter?

FC: No, over here, before. By the depot. And she cook plenty. Then, invite the boys to come eat with us. They shame, but oh, what you do? I bought plenty. We get plenty food. My wife bought plenty rice, plenty things, she bought. Fill up our room. Wartime. So, finally, we are evacuated from there. We go to the schools.

FZ: And then, you moved over to Fort Shafter?

FC: Yeah. Fort Shafter. We bought something over there. And then, eventually, every time we get party over there. My wife and my cousin, they like party every time. So, you know what we do? We fix the roof of the house. We make big house, you know. We paint inside and we changed the screen door. Look nice every time. And the people over there, they envy that place. We get nice place, eh. And they ask the boss, the landlord, to rent that [to] them. But we no like give up. The landlord like evict us. But that time, they get that kind rent control. He cannot evict us. So, finally, when he cannot evict us. . . . Get three houses, eh? Only one cesspool. Naturally, the cesspool got overflow, eh? So, he build another one. He like us to help him build the cesspool. How can we build? If you stay home from work, the MP [Military Police] come, chase you go back to work. Before, oh, you cannot stay home. The MP

come chase you work because they need somebody to work, eh? So, you know what he did? He cut off our water.

So, it so happened that our neighbor is a haole lady, the wife of a commander of one battleship. The husband no come home, and they no receive no money already from him. They get three children, one boy and two girls. They come play with my children.

"Ey, Pacita,"--my oldest daughter--"you know," she [neighbor's daughter] said, "Long time we no eat. Because my father no come home. One week now he no come home and we get no more money."

So, my daughter tell, "Mama, you know these people? These children, they no eat long time already."

So, she feed them, and then give them bread, give them all kind. Because I work in the Hickam, they give us food over there. Anything. Outside, no can buy nothing. We get hard time during the war. That's how we make friends. So, when this landlord wanted to evict us and cut off our water, "Elaine," she said--the lady, Alice, the name--"you get your water?"

"No, he cut off."

"Connect your water hose over here." She connect the water hose and fill up our bathtub over there. That's how. And then, she cook. When we pau cook, when we come home from work, we go Ala Moana, by Ala Moana over there, they get free water over there. We go bathe over there. We eat over there and bathe. So, finally, my wife get wise. "Goddamn, how come this guy is doing this hardship to us? And yet, we pay our rent." In advance. Before the end of the month, we pay already. And yet, he like evict us. So, finally, my wife, she's thinking, "(By and by), I report to the Board of Health."

She [went] and report to the Board of Health. Oh, right away, the Board of Health came. "Hey, Mr. Ferreira [?],"--Ferreira the name-- "what's the idea of cutting the water to these people over here? They no pay your rent?"

"No, they pay."

"They are late?"

"No, they pay in advance."

"What's the idea? You cannot evict them. They get the rent control over here. You can't even raise their [rent]. So, you got to put back. If you no put back, they put you in jail." He put back.

So, he was doing that. We get hard time. You know what he [did]? The dirt, he dig from the hole, he put the mud over there [by our

house]. You know what we do? Got to buy lumber to put over there so that we can go to our house. (FC sighs.) We get tired already like that. Besides, our car, we park outside. Those Portuguese people outside, they wreck our car. They take off the rotor, and throw away. Pull up all the cable, eh?

See, we cannot go work like that. So, finally, my cousin, he said, "Hey, more better we buy house."

"How can we buy house? We got no money."

But that time, we buy that kind savings bond. They make us buy savings bond, fifty dollar worth or twenty-five dollar worth, hundred dollar worth. We buy every time. So, what we do, our neighbors over here, they no like us. They wreck our car. We get hard time. Might as well buy our own house. And so, finally, my wife went around in town looking for house. Oh, we get hard time to look for house. Finally, she found this place. So, we bought this place. But, and then, I was thanking the old man that did that to us, or else we never buy house. At that time, we are thinking to buy car. But no more. You no can buy no car. You no can buy nothing. During the war, nobody allowed to manufacture anything, eh? They were using the factories to help build sea boat like that, any kind.

FZ: What sort of people wanted to have you evicted? What kind of people?

FC: Portuguese.

FZ: Those tenants were Portuguese, too.

FC: Yeah. They get their own house but they like our house because nice how we fix 'em up, that's why. That's why we came to this place.

FZ: Could you describe some of the emergency measures that happened at Hickam after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

FC: Ah, when they come there bomb, good thing we were not there. When they come bomb Pearl Harbor, it's a Sunday, eh? That was a Sunday. December the 7th, Sunday. And then, I was planning to go church. My wife turn on the radio. One broadcaster before, one Filipino, this Mr. Villanueva--Bert Villanueva, they call--he broadcast in the KGU. "Oh, we are under attack! Take cover! Under attack, under attack!" First time, we no pay attention to that. But we heard the bombing over there. Then we see the smoke from Pearl Harbor. Oh, that time, I never go church already. That's how they bomb plenty.

In the barracks in Hickam Field, where the soldiers stay, plenty soldiers in the barracks. Plenty, so-many thousand soldiers. They were eating, that time. When they attack like that. But it so happened that one week before that, they publish newspaper that they are mock attack that day. They mock attack, they said. So, the soldiers eating in the dining room, they went out from the barracks.

Look out, like that. Ho, the airplane chase, strafe them, you know. Any moving thing, that time, they follow. Some officers one time, soldiers, go report to the work. They ride their car. Ah, really plenty people died. One commander like that, one colonel like that. Ah, the one, he stop the car and go underneath. Good thing he underneath the car, they strafe the thing. Plenty died. You know, so many people died, you know what they do? I don't know where they bury those people. They make a ditch, big ditch, and then dump all those people inside, the soldiers who died.

FZ: And then you became the assistant manager. . . .

FC: Of the service station.

FZ: Service station at Hickam. When was this? What year?

FC: In '43.

FZ: Oh, wartime also?

FC: Wartime. During the war.

FZ: How did you get the job?

FC: Before, I quit from the store, eh? They send me take care one store, sell beer right by the office. Finally, they need somebody who know how to take care the store. I was assistant manager over there. Then, they need assistant manager in the service station because the manager quit because he went to the defense job. They get big pay, eh? So, I was the assistant manager. Finally, this manager too, he quit. So, I was the one who take care. So, I became manager over there.

FZ: How did you like the job?

FC: Well, at that time, good. Because me, I get experience with talking to people because I used to be salesman, eh?

FZ: Oh, I see. Yeah.

FC: I'm not scared to talk to the officers, like that. Some boys, they scared the officers. "Why you scared the officers for? They are human, like us. So long you give them good service."

FZ: That's right.

FC: And then, one new major came over here. Major of the exchange. Take care of the whole exchange, eh? The people complain because they don't have good service during payday. So, the major come and see me, "Hey, Cruz. How come you don't have no good service during payday?"

"Yeah, because, you know when we start this service station, our volume of business small. But now came up. Before, we sell only 3,000 gallons a day. Now, 30,000 already. And we use the same pump, the same equipment. And they renovate all the stores. Only this service station, they won't touch nothing. So, you give me the twin pump." But it's too expensive. Yeah, even though it's expensive, it's the need of the business. See? They can do it, but they no like. So, the new major say to me, "Ah, I transfer you to Fort Ruger." That's why they transfer me to Fort Ruger.

FZ: Oh, because of this problem?

FC: This problem. But when I transfer Fort Ruger, the manager get one Japanese. Before, I no like no Japanese help me because they are the one who retard my promotion before when I was in Maui. I work in the cannery in Maui before, eh? I became manager over there, before, in Maui, in that cannery. CPC [California Packing Corporation] before. And I get hard time that time when I was new. So, I hate the Japanese. I no like. I no trust them. So, finally, one new captain came. He come talk to me nice. "Hey, Mr. Cruz. Why don't you help these people?" Because the wife is part-(haole), part-Korean, she is beautiful lady. They get children, eh? And they get store in Hickam. But the money they make, not enough to take care the children. But I no like. "Please help them." And then, finally . . .

FZ: How did you help them?

FC: He became my assistant manager.

FZ: At. . . .

FC: Hickam. That service station.

FZ: But then, there was that problem with the station so you moved over to Ruger.

FC: No, this Japanese, every time, in the evening, they call me in the office, eh? They want me to go drink with them. But I don't drink. "Why you no associate with us?" he said. The captain, eh? "You no associate with us."

"I busy. I get important business to take care of. I get money, taking everything. If something lost, the one, they blame me not you," I told him. And then, they saw my wife. My wife was a beautiful lady, you know, my wife. They see her because sometimes we attend meeting over there. They wanted me to go with them nightclubbing. I cannot afford to go nightclubbing. Because my wife get small children and besides my pay small. You go nightclubbing, how much you spend? Thirty dollar, forty dollar, I cannot afford that. My pay small. But this Japanese now, he get nice wife. Half-

haole, half-Korean. They go. They go with them every time. When he came assistant manager, they go nightclubbing with them. So, that's how. They assume he know how to take care the service station, yeah. And so, they transfer me.

FZ: Fort Ruger.

FC: Yeah, Ruger. And he took charge. Ah, when he took charge, he don't know how to make report. He cannot. He don't know. They even use some of the secretary in the main branch, the main office. They don't know how to make. Delicate, you know. You assemble the two kind of column. No problem for me. Join them together. Hard.

FZ: What was difficult to join?

FC: No, in making a report, when inventory. When inventory that one, you submit your report. You got to know how to make your report. He don't know. Every morning, they cannot submit their report. When closing time, they go home. But me, I no go home. See, I make the framework of my report in the evening. I count my money, I make ready the deposit, I make the deposit slip. See? The framework of my report. When I go in the morning, I just finish up. And then, when the mailboy come, he go pick up all our report and he go deposit the money in the bank. But them, they no can make. Because closing time, they all go home. In the morning, ah, they are suprised, eh? "Ey, what's this? What's happened with this?" They don't know.

FZ: Forget already.

FC: That's how. And then, they send a FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] over there. Three FBI in my place, Fort Ruger. "Hey, Mr. Cruz." Then before, when they cannot make the report. "By the way, when the Filipino was here, he is good. He give us good service and besides he submit his report promptly. How come?"

"The new major send him over there."

So, they tell me to come back. Come back to Hickam. "No. So long the major stay there, I no like. I stay here." They no force me to go.

And then, after so many months again, the Fort Shafter, the head service station, they put retired Navy to take care. He's drunkard. Oh, every month, they get 3,000 shortage. So, when new captain came in Shafter, "Oh, by the way, whom do you know that get experience?"

"Oh, we know somebody. But they put him in Fort Ruger."

So, he called me up. "Hey, Cruz. You come report here tomorrow. Monday, you come report over here." That's how I became manager at

Fort Shafter. That's how.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

FZ: Fort Ruger, how many years did you work there?

FC: About two years.

FZ: Oh, this is from what year to what year?

FC: I don't know already. From. . . . Forty-five, '46, I think.

FZ: Oh, '45, '46? I see. And after that, because of the problems at Hickam, you went back to . . .

FZ: At Fort Shafter?

FC: He get plenty shortage, eh? Besides, he don't know how to take care the repair shop. Grease rack and tire, like that. Besides, they lose so much money over there because somebody steal tire or something. And they don't know how to control---if they service, they cannot collect all the service [fees] they get. Sometimes, one officer leave the car. Put four new tire, like that, and then put new battery, and then grease (job or service) the car [fee] and everything. Sometimes, they only collect the grease car, but they no collect the tire and everything. Oh, so they lost plenty money. And besides, the security of the place not so good. You know, the gate? The gate of the warehouse they get over there, looks like [someone] can open like that, eh? If you stretch this side, you can pass through tire and everything like that. And then, I no blame the civilian because civilian no can go there. Nighttime, maybe the soldiers over there, they go steal those kind. Tire, battery, or the oil or something. They steal. And they don't know. They get shortage, plenty shortage.

But when I was there, I discovered one of the boys went into the warehouse and they lock 'em up over there. When I was busy making my report, eh? He yell, "Ey, open this door. I no can come out." I like go [unlock], but I cannot go because I am completing my report because the messenger's coming already [to] pick up my report, eh? So, when I finish my report, I went over there. "Ey, where's that guy?" I said, "Who was the guy yelling inside?"

He tell me. "Hey, what's the matter with you?"

"Ah, because they lock me inside."

"But how did you come outside?"

"Oh, come." He open the thing. Wow. On one side, meet like this, but no more nothing stuck in the middle. They put all like that, oh, [the door] come wide, eh? I pass through here. Ah, now, I think, that's how we lose plenty battery, plenty oil, plenty tire inside. That's why, I call up the commander over there. "You come see over here." That's why, before, they lose plenty money because of this. Right away, they fix up. Put bolt in the middle. Over there. See, they cannot put that way. See? That's why.

And then, I told my boys, "If anybody come here and ask for service, make a work order and put in my office. When finish, hang the key over here with the work order. So, one time, I short about so many hundred dollar. How come? And then, finally I saw over there, get the work order over there, but the key no more. Good thing that they put the name, the rank, and the telephone number. So I called that colonel. "Hey, Colonel, how come? Yesterday you come pick up your car, but you never pay."

"Oh, you know why? I was in a hurry. That's why I'm planning to come pay."

"For goodness sake, next time, no do that." See? Shortage, we get plenty shortage. That's why they get shortage over here, big shortage because of that.

"No, no, no. I come pay."

"Better come pay now." See? That's how they lose the money.

: Payment is not on time.

: Yeah, they no pay. When long line over there--when pau work, eh? Long line. Everybody like their car. The customers come in, they cannot take care all, eh, one time. And they send one boy, "Ey, go get my key." They go get. That's why, I control my. . . .

: So, some payment was irregular?

: Regular. But sometimes, they no pay, eh?

: They don't pay.

: You cannot trust them. He send one boy to pick up his key. I tell them, "Anybody when they come around there, come see me first. Don't give the key. Come see me." Yeah? That's how I control that one.

: That's good.

: Sometimes, they put tire. They forget to put the tire. How come? Me, before, because of that, I inventory my tire, my oil, and my battery every night. Then I know. Then I check. That's why I go

So, one time, the trouble, the beginning of the conflict is that the Union Oil Company, we used to buy oil and grease from them. But they like to sell the tire and battery. So, they pay him to recommend their product. So, we in the meeting, all the managers of the one, all one time we get meeting. And the salesman from Union Oil Company, then he come stay. I see on the table, they get sample of the tire and everything. "Just like they are introducing certain kind of product over here," I was telling. I was telling to the captain, captain of Shafter over here.

"How you know?" he said.

"Yeah, because they get sample tire." You know, sample of tire on the table. And sure enough, by and by, this [haole supervisor] tell, "According to my . . ."

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

FZ: We were talking about the Union. The tires.

FC: And he said, "The tires and batteries." And then, the captain by me ask me, "Ey, what's the matter? You told me that the best kind tire is Firestone. And their battery, too."

"Oh, yeah."

"How come he telling that that kind?"

"I don't know. Like him, he's a new one. He don't know nothing."

So, the chairman of the meeting over there, "Who can answer [that] statement," he said. Nobody like answer. And then the captain tell me, "Ey, you." So, I told them. According to my experience, I told them, the product of the Firestone tire and the Firestone battery in the Schuman Carriage tire and battery, they are good. I deal with them long before the merge of the Air Force and the ground force. And they are the best tire because Firestone Company plant their own rubber and they manufacture. Any kind type of battery, any kind of make of car, they supply you. Whereas, if you introduce certain kind company, new company, and then another manufacturer follows the specific(ation) of that company, ah, you cannot trust because maybe they can supply you the popular kind of tire, popular battery, but the foreign car, foreign battery, they cannot supply. I know, I get experience because I used to buy, myself. A German car, the Italian car, the Japanese car, not everybody can have that battery and tire. Different. Different size. So, anyway, if you cancel the contract with this company, supposing the Union Company cannot supply, you got to buy expensive kind from them. Because they only could supply us the certain kind of tires, certain kind of battery. Only the American-made car [parts], they can supply. Foreign car [parts], they could not supply. Because I'm a Filipino only, they no believe. Besides,

in their mind already, they want to buy from the Union Oil Company. Gasoline, tire, everything. They wen cancel that, and they follow what he say.

Finally, when come to so many cars [to service] already, we cannot. The German make. The Italian make. They cannot supply [parts]. The Japanese make, they cannot supply the tire and the battery. They have to buy [parts from someplace other than Union Oil Company]. Expensive from the Firestone Company. See? So, from that time, they blame him. "That time, Mr. Cruz is right. He was telling the truth." Because of that, he hate me. I never tell him that he's wrong. According to my experience, I said. And I ordered those one already. And the service station small, now come big already.

FZ: So, how long did you work at Fort Shafter? From what year to what year?

FC: Oh, and then, I work in the Fort Shafter from 1942. Then, '46, I think. Nineteen forty-six to---no, '45 to '47, I think. And then, they transfer me. He's the one who transfer me.

FZ: Oh, he transferred you?

FC: That supervisor. See? How far that [Fort Schofield]. Every day I go there seven days a week. And besides I told him, "Hey, for goodness sake, I get--I'm the manager--the worst kind car. I cannot afford to buy car because I get plenty children go school and I get my house to pay, and I get small pay. I cannot buy car, and my car is no good. Yet, so many people live in that place, you supposed to put him as manager take care the service station in Schofield."

"Ah, no," he said. "We like you because you the one know how to handle that place. Because that manager over there, too, he get plenty, \$5,000 shortage every month," he said.

FZ: Which is this? Which manager, where?

FC: In Schofield. So, they put me over there.

FZ: At Schofield?

FC: Schofield. I get hard time.

FZ: This was '47?

FC: Mm. Then I stay there how many years? Oh, I get hard time over there. And the worse part, the manager over there and the bookkeeper, when they kick out the manager, the bookkeeper came out, too. Oh, I cannot make the report. "How can I be manager and the same time make the report?" I tell them. Oh, I get hard time to select. I get trouble all time like that.

FZ: At Schofield?

FC: Yeah. I get hard time to. . . . And I train the bookkeeper. I know how to make, but I got no more time, eh? I train them. Hard.

FZ: So, aside from managing the store, you had to train?

FC: Oh, hard, you train. Besides, the bookkeeper got to take care the gasoline sometime. And those pumps over there, hard. Different system over there. The system is, the one working in the island, they take care their own money. See? They buy some kind of parts for the car, they come to the office. But the gasoline and oil, they [i.e., the workers at the pumps] take care. But they cannot ring in that one. The new cash register. They only turn [in] the money [to the office register]. So, in the afternoon, when they pau, they turn in the report, it's up to the manager to ring the sales. Ah, hard, that one. If you get no experience, you make mistake. Like one Sunday, I stay home. My assistant manager take care. You know the sales in oil, he put in gasoline. The sales in gasoline, he put in oil. He exchange. So, I say, "How come they get so many sales in the oil?" So many sales in the oil. In gasoline, little bit. Oh, that kind hard. I had to re-ring again and make report. Correct that mistake in the cash register. If you get no experience, you cannot fix it up.

FZ: So, you had an assistant manager?

FC: Assistant manager.

FZ: Then you hired a bookkeeper?

FC: Bookkeeper.

FZ: What other workers did you have?

FC: Oh, the one get the tire, grease boy, the one. Important one, eh. I ask him, "When you work over there [at a service station] what is the policy of greasing car?"

"Oh, they gave us so many minutes to grease one car."

Ah, no good, that kind. I don't like that kind. The exchange business is not to make business--to give service to the people. So, we are not here to make money. We are here to give service to the people. When you grease the car, looks like your own car. You grease the car good. Not the (FC makes squirting sounds), pau already. Even though the grease no go through so long (FC makes squirting sound) like that, ah, pau already. But no grease go inside. See? The car come junk and make plenty noise. So, I tell him, "Grease good."

Finally, they wanted to safety check. You know, the supervisor, he

came over there. "I want this boy to take care the safety check."

"Ask me," I say.

"No, no. Go let this boy."

So, when the examiner came, one policeman, "Who is the manager over here?"

"Me."

"Ah, you."

"Yeah, but. . . ." So, I just wen tell the supervisor said [to have the grease boy do it]. That is why.

"No, no, no, no. You supposed to know. You manager. I come teach you. It's easy."

Yeah, he teach me. I learn. And then, teach the boys. Because he no like me improve my. . . . That one.

FZ: Who didn't want you to improve?

FC: The supervisor. Because he hate me, eh?

FZ: Oh, yeah. You were talking there about Fort Shafter.

FC: Yeah, no.

FZ: So, by the time you moved to Schofield, you already knew safety check.

FC: Yeah, safety check. I learned safety check over there. And then, they tell me before in the grease rack. Plenty officers come. In the Navy, Air Force, in the ground force, they come. "Ey, Mr. Cruz." They know me, eh? I know their wives. They come to me, I treat them good. I studied salesmanship, too, little bit before. I know how to talk to them.

And if the boys [working at the service station] make trouble or (by and by) they report to their mother. "Mr. Cruz, like this." I tell them, no, I'm not cruel to them, but they are disobedient. In the morning, start in the morning, they no like go work. They like go have their breakfast. "How come you not here before. . . ." Get long line in the morning, eh? Because we cannot open until the time is up. When we start to open over there, they go out and go take breakfast. I get hard time, eh? So, what I did, I bought that kind coffeemaker. Big kind coffeemaker. I bought plenty--I buy coffee, sugar, the cup, and I buy pastry over here. So many dozens of doughnuts. I bring over there. And when they start already. "Hey boss, we like go breakfast."

"We just start."

"But we hungry."

"If you hungry, one by one, go eat (in the) rest room. Over there get plenty doughnut, everything."

They no can fool me. So, finally, the mothers of those tell me, "Hey, I hear that you buy doughnut for the men, coffee for my children."

"Yeah. Because they like fool me every time. When we start in the morning, they go away. I am stranded over there, I get long line. The people burn up. Only one boy or two boys working. Whereas I get plenty boys over here."

And then, because I am Filipino, small Filipino like that. They broke the machine that (fix) the tire. They broke every time. "Ey," I tell them, "how long you work over here."

"Oh, two years. Three years already."

"The way you work, no wonder you broke everything. The way you work, you don't know how to make."

"What do you mean by we don't know how to make?"

See? The power machine, too, over there. Me, I know how use power machine. "See? Only my finger can touch. You, you using the power and broke. You know why? You don't know about tire. You study about tire. Certain tire, certain make of car, you start the reverse side, not the other side. They no teach you that one. I teach you now. You better learn."

And then, (by and by), they sassy, the sons of the colonels. So, I talk to the captain. "Ey, Captain, these boys don't believe me because I am Filipino."

So, he made a meeting. He call them early in the morning, come to meeting. "Ey, you boys, Mr. Cruz tell me that you no pay attention to him. You never believe him. You know Mr. Cruz is intelligent boy. He study good how to work. That's why he is manager over here. That's why they bring him over from Fort Shafter, bring him over here to take care this service station. Get so many shortage over here. You broke the machine every time. We got to send this machine to the repair shop every time. You guys don't know. You better believe him." So, I teach them how.

FZ: These are haole guys?

FC: Haoles.

FZ: How about your assistant manager?

FC: One haole. Retired Air Force.

FZ: And your bookkeeper?

FC: Bookkeeper, one Chinese-Hawaiian. The wife of telephone lineman.

FZ: And the other attendants were all haoles?

FC: Oh, Filipinos. Plenty Filipinos. Filipinos.

FZ: But what were the haoles doing? I mean, those boys who broke the machine?

FC: Oh, they fix the tire, fix the car. When they buy new tire, they put. And they broke the belt. If I were the one who buy this one, I (don't) like, because you broke the belt already. Because the strength of the (tire), it was the belt. If the belt is weak when running the car, blow out. Come out from the rim. I tell them.

FZ: So, these were employees, too, these haole boys?

FC: Yeah. They are employees. They are under me, eh? I'm the manager. They sell gasoline. Me, I no work in the office every time. I stay with them, I help them before. And then, finally, every time, they, "Ey, Cruz, how come only you? Only you, you no fire the boys?"

"For what I fire them? They work good." As a manager, [some] make those boys work but they no teach them how to work. Me, I stay there. I work with them. How to fill up the car and how to talk to the people. I teach them service. That's why I no fire them.

FZ: I am sorry. At Schofield, until what year did you work there?
[Nineteen] forty-seven. . . .

FC: [Nineteen] forty-nine, I think. And then, they send me back to Shafter.

FZ: Okay. So, at Schofield, you were at Schofield from '47 to '49.

FC: Yeah.

FZ: You went back to Fort Shafter.

FC: And then, I have one year there. Then get the Japanese over there in. . . . You know already, eh?

FZ: Yeah, the problem.

FC: The problem. They no like Filipino. They made me transfer to Tripler. So I work in Tripler.

FZ: What year was that?

FC: Oh, about '49, I think, or '50. Yeah, Fort Shafter.

FZ: And at Tripler, you stayed there . . .

FC: Tripler, I stayed there long time because they retire me 1967, eh?

FZ: Oh, that was the longest, then, Tripler?

FC: Yeah. Nineteen sixty-seven. So, this guy [supervisor who disliked FC], he wanted me to retire, because still, I get popular, you know. My service, my grease boys, they are good. Every time, all my boys like that, no more trouble. Whereas the other place, they fire out those boys. Me, I work with them. If the customer come, when the other one busy, I got over there and service the one [customer] right away.

FZ: How did you find your work at Tripler? How did you like your work at Tripler?

FC: Oh, kinda hard, because only me, eh? And the hardest part is to secure the place.

FZ: Secure?

FC: Yeah, lock. Plenty place to lock.

FZ: Service station again?

FC: Yeah, service station manager. Lock. So, I told them when they retire me, "I no like retire." Almost more than one month, I work.

"Hey, we tell you already close. You get no more pay." Sure enough, I got no more pay already. So, I have to retire. And then I retire, they never even give me, what you call, party or something. And I work long time--thirty years. They only give me the twenty-five years service, that watch. They give me junk kind watch. "This kind junk watch, you give me."

"You go select the one."

That's why, I select Omega. And then, they retired three of us. "Oh, you ask Cruz what he buy." I tell them I bought Omega. So they bought Omega, too. And they put the name over here. "Army and Air Force Exchange, Fermin Cruz retired, twenty-five years service." Because not exactly thirty years I work. Almost twenty-nine and so much years, I work over there, in the Air Force.

FZ: Let's talk about your life at Kalihi. You bought the house in '46. The house had tenants?

FC: First, we get tenants in the house.

FZ: You were renting out?

FC: Yeah, we rent because when we buy the house, the owner of the house tell me, "Ey, if I sell you the house"--because he was going back to the Philippines--"and how is the tenants?"

"Oh, they can stay over there." They stay, but eventually they move out, too. They buy their own. See, when they get money, they buy their own because they get so many house for sale over there, cheap. See, they bought. So, finally, we get plenty friends from Maui. They like come over here.

FZ: Filipinos, also?

FC: Yeah, Filipinos. They like come here. They work in the defense job. But they get no more place to stay. So, we raise the house. Because low, eh? We raise the house. I spend plenty money. Before, in Hickam I used to have plenty that kind tip. I get tip, that one. Plenty money, Hickam.

FZ: So you were able to raise the house?

FC: So, renovate the house. So plenty before stay with us. And some, they no pay. Some, they help us little bit.

FZ: So, you and your wife stayed in the upper part?

FC: Upper part.

FZ: Upper part of the house. And you had tenants below?

FC: Tenants below. Finally, when they find good job and get enough money already, they bought their houses. Nearly all the people stay here, they get good houses, big houses. Because they happen to find a good job, eh? And very accessible to the market over here, the bus, and every time they go work. Like before, they stay far place, they no can go work every day. Because far place the transportation hard, eh? But they live over here, transportation is accessible, over here.

FZ: Then, Francisca was born in 1947.

FC: Yeah, over here.

FZ: You were here already. First child of the house.

FC: Of the house. She's the only one.

FZ: And Basil?

FC: And Basil in Fort Shafter.

FZ: Nineteen forty-five?

FC: Fort Shafter. Yeah, the house over there.

FZ: But while you working at these different bases, like Schofield and Shafter, you hardly came home, then.

FC: Oh, I come home every day. I get my car.

FZ: Even at Schofield?

FC: Yeah. That's why I told them I get junk car. And then, when they force me to retire, I get the same junk car. But funny, thing, that's why everybody laugh. When I retire, the car retire, too. It no can start.

FZ: It liked you so much?

FC: Yeah. What's the matter? When I retire, this son-of-a-gun car, he retire, too. He no like move. I get hard time, that time.

FZ: And your wife Elaine started working when? First you told me she became a real estate . . .

FC: Yeah. You know, first, one [man open business]. He asked them to sell Bible. So, before she get experience in talking to the people, she sell Bible. Finally, after the Bible, when they sold plenty Bible already, nobody can buy, they sell pots. And finally, after that, they sell stainless steel pots. (By and by), they sell everything already--radio, television, any kind. And then, finally, sometimes she go to the other island, eh? With her crew. She's the head, eh? She get a crew. She get Japanese, Pake, Filipinos, like that, Portuguese. She drive, eh? Finally, the real estate. She like go sell the real estate, so she went to school, University of Hawaii. So, she sell. Not much houses, she sell.

But finally, she get that kind [medical problem]. When Francis was born, oh, when Francis was I don't know how many years, Francis. Two years, I think. She get that kind kidney trouble. First, I blame the doctor. When Francis was born, she almost die because the . . . Force the baby out and the head come ugly, eh? And then, maybe they ruin her [Elaine's] kidneys that time. And then, finally, after so many months, they tell her that something with her womb. So, they took off the womb. So, the neighbor tell me that. . . . I no like accept that take off the womb because when you take off the womb, it's the strength. The lady, the womb. If you take that one, come weak already. Finally, she no can wake up. I like see the doctor. The doctor, he no like see me, you know. Because he take off the womb without my permission. And then, finally, when she [Elaine] came out from the hospital, "Looks like

something wrong with me," she said. "So, my body different one. My body light. Looks like I got no more pep or something like that." So we went to the doctor. Oh, he tell. "Ey, Doctor, looks like something wrong with me."

"Oh, for your information, I took off your womb," he said.

"How come? No wonder I stay in the hospital long time." Because they take off the womb.

And then, finally, the womb is not the trouble. The kidneys supposed to be. Every time she get sick. So, go to the hospital every time. She stay in the hospital long time. So, finally, the doctor--her doctor one old man, eh? He took vacation. So, one younger doctor took over. Finally, the doctor, he found the kidney no good already. So, he tell, "Tell your husband to come here. I like see him." Every time she tell me, I no pay attention because I busy, I work. So, finally, "Ey, you got to see him because very important," she said. That's why, I went see him and he told me. He bring me in his office. "You know, Mr. Cruz, you know why I like [see] you? Your wife is dying already," he said.

"What? Why?"

"The kidney all rotten."

Then, "How soon? How soon that one?"

"When she cannot take anything inside, retain any food she take, that means she dying already."

That's why, she tell, "I like go home."

[I ask,] "Why?"

[She tell,] "Because they cannot help me any more. Any medicine or anything, even water. If I take, they go out. That means I'm dying."

So, she asked me to bring home, I bring home. The doctor no like give. You know what he did? "Why, Mr. Cruz, why you bring out? Very serious responsibility," he said.

"I know. But she like go home. You cannot help here anymore."

"How you know?"

"Because Dr. Spencer told me that if she cannot retain anything that come inside her, that means she is dying."

So, they no like. So, you know, because we insist, I (called) my

brother-in-law. Then, we went. "Ey, for goodness sake, let her go home." So, they let her go home. But the main thing, they hire another doctor from different clinic to come and sign the release. This doctor wanted to collect money from me. "Ey, for goodness sake, you never give any relief to my wife. You only sign the release. Why is that good?" I never pay him. He no can force me. "Give me what service you give?" He cannot give me.

FZ: So, when did she [Elaine] die, what year?

FC: She died in 1960.

FZ: And then, you went back to the Philippines after you retired?

FC: No, long time.

FZ: To visit Leona [FC's first wife]?

FC: No, no. Long time after. Eleven years [after Elaine's death]. My son [in the Philippines] wrote me a letter. "Daddy, I like (to) know you because I don't know you. I like (to) get acquainted with you."

"I (don't) like. I'm ashamed with your mother."

So, my daughter-in-law (asked me). "Ey, Daddy, just come one week only. Stay in (our) house (Quezon City). (Don't) go to the province. You don't have to see Mama," she said.

Ah, I went with my friend over here. Because he get the pen pal over there, he like marry (his) pen pal, eh? Tagalog girl. He don't know how to speak Tagalog. Besides, he like stay in the house of my son, eh? That's why, we went.

FZ: So you saw your wife again?

FC: Yeah, I saw my wife. But my son, when he (knew) already that I am (going), he went and see the mother. "Ey, Mama, my father is coming. Please don't scold him because he (don't) like (to) come because he (is) shame. Because he never come back." Ah, she came. When I just arrived that night. I talk story, and then she come down. "Goddamn you, I like (to) kill you," she said. (Chuckles) "You fool me. You tell me three years but come to forty-five years, then you come back."

I asked (to) pardon me. "Ah, I no like make now. My son is a lawyer already. So, go home in Hawaii. Learn how to count. When you know how to count then come back."

FZ: But she did forgive you, right? Eventually, she came here, yeah?

FC: After three years she came. [Nineteen] seventy-one, I went, eh?

[Nineteen] seventy-three, I went (again).

FZ: And then you brought her over here.

FC: And then, my son (ask his mother, "Mama,) why you (don't) like (to) go with my Daddy?" Over there, they get nice house. "You are all alone in your house (here). What kind life you get (here)? You get plenty money, but that's nothing, the money. You better go with him."

FZ: That's nice. Just a minute, eh?

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 11-42-2-84; SIDE ONE

FZ: So, what year did Leona come over?

FC: Oh, you know, when I went to the Philippines (in 1973), I asked pardon from her. "Okay, I pardon you now. Because your wife over there died already. But I no like come with you in Hawaii if we no get married." All right, we get married. So, we get married in Catholic church in Camiling.

FZ: Oh! How nice.

FC: But when I went over there in Camiling, I report to the mayor over there that I come vacation over here. So, finally, they prepared big party for me. So, we get married first. We get married. You know, when he married us, the priest was surprised. Because we show him our marriage license. "Hey, you get married before."

"Yeah, but he left Hawaii and got married. Nothing already. I like we get married again."

"Good."

So, we get married again. After that, we went to Manila already. But when Saturday come, they were looking for me. They send a policeman to the house. "Oh, they went to Manila already." Because my daughter-in-law get the birthday party, eh? So, we went to that home (in Quezon City). And besides, I (was) coming back already (to) Hawaii that time. In that church, you know the priest was telling, "You know, you should follow what Mr. and Mrs. Cruz did. They (have) been separated for so many years, forty-five years, and yet they reconcile. You should do that. So many people, they are separated over here and they never reconcile. But these two, they reconcile. You should follow them." That's why, plenty people in Camiling, they found out that we reconcile, we get married again. I told you, they wrote us a letter over there that, "Oh, the people over

here, they get big party. The mayor giving big party for you over here, but you no stay."

FZ: Oh, is that why the policeman was looking for you?

FC: For me. Because the mayor. Because they give party. They (never) tell me. They think that I stay in Camiling long time. They don't know. They should ask me. Or else I stay(ed) back. We went to Manila right away because my daughter-in-law get birthday party. And then, I don't like. Because according to my wife, they no respect her before because she got no husband. And they look down upon her. So, when I came, she was telling me that. And besides, our relatives, when they go there, they no can stay long time because my daughter-in-law is sassy, like that. She no pay attention to the people. So, they tell me that. Every morning, I give her fifty dollar. Because when I went to the Philippines, I get \$4,000 with me, eh? To spend. She was surprised. Every morning I give fifty dollars. "Hey, Daddy, I get plenty more."

"No, you keep. Because you get visitors coming. You buy food for the visitors." With my son, I give him twenty dollars every day. They surprised.

"You get plenty money?"

"No, I get enough money to spend. I prepared money for my expenses here in the Philippines." She was surprised. Since then, they respect us. Because even my son, the one no respect him, because he had no more father. I don't know why, she get married to him, yet she despise him. Yet, he's one of the best lawyers over there. And then, she's a lawyer [but] she no practice. She only do notarial business at the house. Notary public, that's all.

FZ: Your son is a lawyer.

FC: A lawyer.

FZ: Practicing in Tarlac?

FC: No, in Manila. In the city. But any case he get, he go all around. Even Visayan islands, go anyplace. Because that's a good lawyer, you know, him. He's a criminal lawyer.

FZ: Criminal lawyer. And the wife is also a lawyer.

FC: Lawyer. But she no go. . . . "I don't defend because one lawyer enough to defend," she said.

FZ: So, when did you bring Leona over?

FC: So, finally, because I was not citizen that time, I order her [later]. She came here 1975.

FZ: Oh, that's nice.

FC: She arrived here April 16, 1975. But before I take her, my son tell me, "Ey, Daddy, please take good care of my Mama."

"What's the matter with you? Think I'm a cruel man? You don't know me because you no see me in my life. Because I stay in Hawaii long time. Forty-five years in Hawaii. So, I take good care her." When she came over here, I was thinking that I owe her plenty. I cannot pay. When I left her, the baby was young yet. She took care of him and educate him, and become one of the best lawyers over there. I cannot pay that. So, when she came over here, I spoil her. I no make her work. See? I cook, I wash dishes. Oh, I treat her like one queen over here. "You spoil me," she said, "I'm hardworking woman."

"Never mind."

If she like buy clothes, we go buy. "I like new clothes."

"Oh, we go buy." She can sew, eh? Oh, she get plenty dresses in the room. Plenty, boy. They are surprised. Every time, so long she go out, she get new dress. Because she know how to sew. I said, "Me and you go dance over there."

"Oh, I no like dance if I got no more clothes."

"Well, we go buy."

"Why, every time I tell you, you like."

"Yeah, because"--she get Social Security, too, eh? "That's not only my money, your money, too. So, I no like stop you to spend. If you like spend, you spend." She's happy over here. That's why, you no can say anything.

FZ: And she was also a good dancer?

FC: Oh, yeah. That's how I learn.

FZ: From her?

FC: Yeah. Because we get two teachers. She's my partner. If your partner is a good dancer, you can learn. You learn fast, because in the house, we practice every time.

FZ: Folk dance. Filipino folk dance.

FC: Filipino folk dance. Oh, she's smart, dance. She's a graceful dancer.

FZ: Where were you dancing mostly?

FC: Oh, sometimes we go to the hotels, big parties. Sometimes we go in the HIC [Honolulu International Center]. Sometimes they get big convention like that, they ask us to entertain, we go entertain. We are not ashamed because we dance what we know. We practice every night. Sometimes, every night we practice over here. And daytime. That's why, anyplace. That's why, our members in Lanikila, "How come, every time, they publish in newspaper Mr. Cruz and Mrs. Cruz? In the picture in the newspaper. And every time get the big occasion over here, only them dance?"

"Yeah, because they are the one who know how to dance. How we ask him to make you dance over there but you don't how to dance. Maybe you can dance but not so good. Like them, they are ready any time because they are partners. They practice their own, every time. And they get nice uniforms." See? Like them, sometimes, they get regular clothes. Maybe the men get that barong, but the women hardly have nice clothes.

FZ: What happened to Leona?

FC: Oh, you know the sickness she get? You know, one time, the last time we dance, we were invited by the Armed Forces--the children, they get money-making project. And they invited so many ethnic groups to entertain. We represented the Filipino. We dance over there. About two weeks after that, she get sick. She get headache. "I get headache. Every time, headache. Terrible headache I get." So I bring her to the clinic. The doctor no can find. So, "Bring her to the hospital." I bring her to the hospital. Still, how many? Five doctors. "Hey, Mr. Cruz, this new sickness that attack old people. That attack the nervous system." That's why, she cannot swallow, she cannot eat, and finally, she cannot speak.

FZ: Paralysis?

FC: Nervous system. That's why, they have to feed her. Because before, when she was weak already, I used to go lunch time and evening. Morning time, I no go. But lunch time and evening, I feed her and I help her go to the toilet. But finally, I notice she cannot swallow the food. So, I tell him, "Ey, Doctor, my wife cannot swallow." Cannot masticate the food. See, they give her the baby food. But still, she cannot swallow. So, they feed her through the mouth with tube. Get machine. Finally, they put through the nose. That's how, until she died. Two years (and nine months) in the (hospital). You know how much they charge, one day? Two hundred. Two hundred fifty, like that. Every day. So, we exhausted all our money in the bank. We ask help from the (welfare). Still, they don't believe. So, they ask statement from the bank. "Oh, yeah, Mr. Cruz get no more money already." So, they help. But the trouble is, the doctor, Dr. Mauro, he's a neurologist in that clinic over there. Right behind the hospital. When they get that ID card--what you call that? They call it "coupon." From the welfare. First, every month come. And then I see the hospital, the Xerox copy. Then I

go to the clinic, where the office of the doctor. I tell them. They no like. "Why?"

"Because you get already. So long the hospital know already. Because they say your wife does not come here anymore. In our clinic."

"Yeah, but the doctor is from here. Any service he make over there, he charging me. And instead of charging all the service when he bring his report over here, you got to charge the welfare, not me." But they no do that. I accumulated. So, finally, when my wife died already, the social worker call me. "Hey, Mr. Cruz, how come you get plenty bill in the clinic?"

"Yeah, because they no like to. . . . You know the coupon you gave me, they no like accept."

"Oh, you better go there, no pay them--tell them to charge the welfare." I never go yet because I was sick.

FZ: So your wife died two years ago?

FC: No. In December the 7th, died.

FZ: Last year?

FC: Nineteen eighty-three, yeah. She died, and then, December 16, was buried in Valley of the Temple Memorial Park.

FZ: I saw your scrapbook. Plenty people went, eh?

FC: Yeah, plenty people go.

FZ: Your relatives and your friends.

FC: My children. And then, I call my friend, photographer, to snap all the one in the mortuary, in the church over here, and also in the cemetery. That's why I get plenty. I send them. I gave my brother-in-law in America, my son, my sister-in-law and brother-in-law in Camiling, and my brother-in-law in Bayombong. I made an album. One answered me from Camiling. The one who take care the house of Leona. "Hey, manong," he said, "we received the pictures. You don't have to describe already. We seen some picture already how good you take care of our sister," he said. Now he believe that I took care of her. Plenty people go. And I never tell them the price of the casket--\$2,000, you know. Expensive. We spend about almost \$7,000, you know. Expensive. Including the marker at the cemetery. And the digging and cover. Digging and cover, almost \$600. No, how much? Five hundred so much. See? Besides, the one who dig and cover, they are member of the union. If overtime, you got to pay overtime. See how. . . .

FZ: Expensive, eh?

FC: Expensive. Good thing, the plot, I bought that long time ago. I bought six plots.

FZ: Your neighbors here, how did they react to the death of your wife?

FC: Oh, they are good to me. All of them are good. Because like this Portuguese over here, they. . . . Every Friday when we dance downstairs, practice downstairs, we finish over there [at the school and], they come back over here because I cook over here. We eat over here, eh? Everybody eat over here. So, after that, we practice dancing downstairs. Especially when we are invited to perform someplace. We practice downstairs. Sometimes it's not much. We practice over here.

FZ: How about your Portuguese neighbors? You were saying something about them.

FC: Oh, they are good, our neighbors.

FZ: Oh. You said something about your neighbor and then the practice.

FC: Oh, because they come see, eh?

FZ: Oh, they can see?

FC: (Chuckles) Yeah. I invite them. "You come dine with us."

"Yeah. We just look because we never see this kind dance before," they said. Oh, plenty neighbors come over here, see us dancing.

FZ: That's good. I wanted to ask you about how you would spend your free time when you working at Schofield and Tripler.

FC: No, I got no more free time. Every day, I work.

FZ: I see. Even at Tripler?

FC: Yeah. I work every day. Because that's how they get plenty shortage. Because the assistant manager take over, ah, they don't know, they no care. They lose plenty money. They no take care. That's why, I was surprised. When I retire already, I go to the bank or anyplace, I see the supervisors, eh? The good supervisors. "Ey, Mr. Cruz, you are the best manager in the whole exchange," he said.

"What's the matter with you? When I was manager, you squawk, squawk."

"Oh, because we are supervisor, we show that we are supervisor."

"Ah, how come only now you tell me?"

"Only you get no more shortage. And you never fire nobody. All the

people who work for you, they are good. That's why, you know all the exchange business like that, they fire so many people. But only you, everybody like you. I don't know why."

"Oh, because I treat them well. I respect them. I teach them how to work. That's why no more mistake." If they make mistake, I go over there, I tell them, explain how to work.

FZ: So you started having free time only when you retired?

FC: Yeah, when I retired, then I get sick. Because I used to work every day. How many years I work? Almost thirty years, I work every day. So, I had work in the service station over here. I get friend, eh? Used to deliver gasoline in Hickam Field. He get service station by that Kam IV Road over here. "Hey, Mr. Cruz, you come help me." Because I need help. Nobody take care nighttime." So I take care nighttime. He get a laundry and he get the service station. I take care the laundry. I take care the cash register. I fix the sales and deposit the money.

FZ: Where's this? What place?

FC: In Kam IV Road over here.

FZ: Oh. Where?

FC: Kam IV Road.

FZ: Kam IV Road?

FC: Yeah, Kam IV Road. You know, across the one.

FZ: When was this? After you retired?

FC: After I retired. Because I get sick because I no work, eh? Only stay home, I get sick.

FZ: Oh, I see. You get sick from not working. (Laughs)

FC: Not working. You know, that's true, you know. Plenty people, they say, "Oh, you got to do something. Move around or something." So, when I work, I was all right. But finally, you know how much he pay me? Only \$1.60 one hour. Same thing with the boys. And yet, I take care the service station, I take care the money, I take care the cash register, I close the laundry. They get laundry in the side. I close that. Take care everything. I quit. He come see me.

FZ: How many years was that when you worked for him?

FC: Oh, I worked over there about more than two years.

FZ: Oh, I see. And since then, what have you been doing?

FC: Then, pau. I no work anymore. I stay home.

FZ: So, what has been your daily routine?

FC: Oh, then lately I go to the senior center. The old people, eh? I join so many clubs. That's all. Sometimes, we go entertain. That's how. That's why, every time we are ready. Anybody want, we are ready every time, because we get nice clothes. That's why, any time they need. Sometimes they get visitors in the Japanese club. They get visitors from Japan. They ask us to go entertain the visitors from Japan. We go dance over there.

FZ: Have you been able to pick up your sports again since retirement?

FC: No. I no play already tennis at that time. Finish, retire.

FZ: Since '67, you haven't been able to play that much.

FC: No.

FZ: Oh, hard. Not at all.

FC: Not at all. Because I get no more partner to play. And all these young people already, they don't know how to play tennis. Sometimes I play tennis within the school over here, I go out by the wall. I hit it like that. Only exercise, eh? My wife don't know how to play, too. She only accompany me over there going around. Every morning we go around, walking around. So many hours.

FZ: So, your children, many of them . . .

FC: All married already.

FZ: . . . grew up after the war [World War II].

FC: Yeah, after the war.

FZ: What did they study? Like . . .

FC: The boy?

FZ: Let's see, start with Pacita.

FC: Pacita? Oh, she graduate from Saint Francis Convent. And then, when their mother died, they one by one get married. They get no more mother already.

FZ: What does she do now? What does Pacita do?

FC: Ah, you know, she get married to part-Chinese, part-Puerto Rican,

part-Portuguese. The Chinese mother was pure Chinese. But they are so particular. Because they are rich, eh? And the father-in-law used to be the supervisor in that. . . . What you call it? Working over the ship already? In there. So, finally she tell me, "I want to go work, Daddy."

"Why you go work? I send you to school."

"No, no. I like go work right away because my husband don't even give me money." That's why, when she come here, sometimes I give her about twenty dollar, fifteen dollar, or five dollar or ten dollar. She like to earn her own. So, finally, she apply in that Gem Store. Here, Kapalama. She work twenty years. From there, when they bought their house in Mililani, she transferred in Waipahu. So, now, after twenty years, the Gem Store was bought by the Times. They get different you know what I say. You know, that's why, I hate the Japanese, I said, because Japanese own those. You know, the old-timer working on the Gems, especially those who work in the grocery department, they kick them out all. And they put the graduates from the school who know how to run the new machine they get. See? Why they do that to them? They kick them out. All old-timers. Twenty years experience. And yet, the worse part, when the last day they work, when supposed to be day off, they make the old-timer work. They teach the new guys to use the old machine they get because they don't know how to use the machine. See? But then what they did, in order not to. . . . They get reason to kick them out, they give them book, I think, to study about the code. The code of their job, eh? And after two days, they make them examination. Naturally, only college people. They cannot pass that kind. So, the second time, the examination, they did better. But when the last day they work, they tell them, "You are off because you did not qualify. You never pass the examination." You see? But the trouble with them, why they no make them use the machine? They only use the book. Examine from the book. Why they no make them use the machine?

FZ: How about Fermin?

FC: Fermin? When he graduate St. Louis, the mother was still alive. We mortgaged this house. We send him to college. Northwest Institute. Aeronautical engineering. But he was two years over there, then the mother died. So, I called him back. Then after the funeral, then he like go back, but I cannot send him because I got no money to send. Oh, he cry every time. Every night I pray about how can I help my son? He get a good education and now, only bulackbol walking around over here. No more work. So, I tell him, oh, finally, "If you like study about airplane, why don't you join the Air Force and tell them that you like to learn about airplanes. You don't have to pay. Now, I just tell you this, but you have to think good." Oh, finally, after one week, he tell me, "Ey, Daddy, bring me to the airport."

"Why?"

"Oh, I joined the Air Force." I bring him to the airport. And then, when they went, I see three boys, all local boys. They stay behind, all the sons of the colonels, and the major like that, and the captain like that. They in front. The Filipinos, eh, the local boys stay behind. Oh, I feel like I pity them. When they went to the Mainland, when they went their destination, naturally, they give them application. They tell them what their ability was. What day, when you was born, and what they. . . . And then, my son is a graduate of the St. Louis. He was a captain of ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] over there. Besides, he study self-defense, karate, for five years. See, with that, they put him as platoon leader in there. So, finally, those haoles over there, the big ones, "Goddamn this Mexican. How come they put him as a platoon leader over here?" Oh, he just arrived. They don't know that he got. . . . So, they no pay attention to him. "Hey, Mexican," they tell him.

"No, I'm not Mexican. I'm Hawaiian. I'm born in Hawaii. I'm Filipino but born in Hawaii," he said. That's how. And then, finally, he pass that jet mechanic. And they were surprised. "How come this guy? Only no more two years over here, he pass the examination. Us, how many years we stay here and examination, we fail every time." They don't know that he went to school before in that Northwest Institute. He get the fundamentals.

FZ: How about Priscilla?

FC: Priscilla? She graduate Saint Francis School, too. But, finally, she get married. Get married to a Japanese, Morita. Kenneth Morita. But she work in the [Board of] Water Supply. She work there long time.

FZ: Francisca?

FC: Francisca, she get married, too.

FZ: Francisca's also a graduate of St. Francis?

FC: No, she graduate from Farrington High School over here. Because I was poor already that time. No more money to send her to that private school. So, she graduate there.

FZ: And Basil?

FC: Basil graduate from St. Louis.

FZ: What does he do now?

FC: Ah, he get sick. He get divorce with the wife, that's why stay with me. He get (two) sons, boys. He get boys. Francis used to work

at the American Factors. He work in Immigration Office now. Federal.

FZ: What were some of the activities you had as a family when your children were still growing up?

FC: Oh, when my wife is still alive, oh, they are happy over here.

FZ: What sort of activities did you have?

FC: They sing. Because the mother can play guitar. They play piano, and they could sing, sing.

FZ: This was Elaine?

FC: Elaine, yeah, that one. We bought piano, eh? We send the two girls to school. This Pacita and Priscilla.

FZ: That's nice.

FC: They play ukulele. They are good players, you know. But when the mother died, pau already. Nobody play with the piano, and they get married one by one. No good, you know, when no more wife. And I work every day. Seven days a week and I go home late.

FZ: Yeah, no time.

FC: Oh, the girls get married and my son. When he went to the Air Force, he get girlfriend over here. So, when he passed the basic training, he came vacation over here. And the girlfriend, oh, they like get married. So, I told him, "No can get married now. Like you, you are in the service. You got to ask permission from your commanding officer." So, he went back, ask permission from the commanding officer over there. Get permission already, they make party, big party over here. We kill about three kalua pig, eh? Big party, we get over here before when they get married. And then, after that . . .

FZ: Oh, you had the celebration at home?

FC: No, get the hall over here before. Big hall over here. Big hall over here owned by the Brotherhood.

FZ: Brotherhood?

FC: Brotherhood, they call. The one who support the church before. All Portuguese and Chinese and. . . .

FZ: Oh, Portuguese church organization?

FC: Yeah, Portuguese church organization. And they own that hall. Oh, nice hall, that one. Get the kitchen downstairs and the dining hall downstairs. Upstairs had big hall.

FZ: Oh, that's a nice place, before.

FC: A nice place, before, for party. But it so happened that the one of the president is Podagee. No, not connected to the church, this one. They are only supporting the church. This real estate man, I know. And then, what he did, he sold the one. He sold the property. That's why, they build houses over there. They broke the hall. Because before, they get school over here. They want to expand the school. Ah, the son-of-a-gun Podagee, the real estate man, sold this. That's why, they never expand the school already.

FZ: What's the name of your parish church?

FC: Lady of the Mount Church. Lady of the Mount parish.

FZ: You founded the Filipino Catholic . . .

FC: Ah, you know, this before, hardly any Filipino going to church. Very seldom, church. But finally, the bishop at that time, he realized that so many Filipinos over here. "How come very few Filipinos come?" So, they ask priest from the Philippines come over here. But he never do good. So, finally, they send another one, this Father Calip. Usmundo Calip. When he came over here, he survey. He go around all of the place, visit all the house. "How come you people no go church?"

"Ah, because those people over here, they no respect us. They despise us. They despise our clothes." And when we go inside there, naturally sometimes they come late, eh? They no give them chance to go inside. And they don't give them, "Oh, come inside." I don't know these people. We have Portuguese and Chinese. Most of them controlled by Portuguese, you know, over here, before. Because according to the story of the Lady of the Mount, when the Portuguese came over here, they bring their saint from Portugal, the Lady of the Mount. So, they put that, called the Lady of the Mount over here. That's how.

FZ: So, what did the Catholic club do?

FC: And then, finally, this Usmundo Calip came here. And then, we tell (him). So, he preach over here every time. "You know, for your information, the Philippines is one of the best Catholic countries, in the (Orient)."

FZ: They were many.

FC: "Catholic, they get full. These people are religious people. So, please when the Filipinos come over here, you invite them to come. Because according to the teaching of the Catholic, you got to love everybody. According to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Love everybody. We are born equal. These Filipinos, they are dark, and they've different kind clothing, and they speak not good English, but you

understand them. But please invite them to come. They are good people. They can help the church." So, finally we get one father over here, Father Theodor. One old man. Then, Father Calip tell him, "Why not organize this one?" That's why, he started this one, Filipino Catholic Club.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

FZ: Was your club able to remedy the situation?

FC: "The Filipinos don't know how to organize themselves," they said. Because the Portuguese, they get big organization, before. They are the one who back up the church, eh? So, we show them we organize good. Then, finally, we beat them.

FZ: What did your organization do?

FC: We make that kind carnival. Make plenty money for the church. Because the church that time owe plenty money. They build new church, new house for the nun, and new house for the priest, and new hall over there, church hall. The classrooms over there, they build that one. They owe plenty money. The bishop lend them the one. They no borrow from the bank. Expensive--high interest, eh? So, we put up a carnival. Oh, we earned plenty money for the one. Since that time, until now, only Filipinos back up the church.

FZ: How about the Portuguese?

FC: Ah, not so good already. You know, these Portuguese, they hate the Filipinos. They sold their houses over here, they moved someplace. Hardly anybody over here, now. All Filipinos. If get two-story building, that's Filipino house. All these two-story buildings over here, all Filipino house.

FZ: They moved away?

FC: They move away. Because they get many subdivision, eh? And them, they no use their head. Because if go far place, hard. You got to use car come here and you are the country, eh? Hard. Like over here is accessible to the town. In here. They don't know. Close to the bus station over here, close to the stores, close to the market, close to the church. They go far place. And when they go church from far place, it take them long journey to go reach the church. I had my house over here. So, I walk only that [distance], the church already. We had hard time to find this place, you know, before. And plenty people like buy this house. "Oh, I no like sell this house."

"I sell you good kind house."

"I no like to start [from] beginning, to pay note already. This one, I paid already, this house. This my own. Nobody can drive me away." And besides, that time, that time, we are retired. Old man already, eh? The tax low. See? You young, ah, the tax. Like now, not my name anymore, my children, oh, the tax high. This house.

FZ: When is the feast day of your saint? When is the fiesta?

FC: Oh, every year the single day. March [August], I think.

FZ: How's it celebrated?

FC: Before, we used to have that kind bingo carnival, like that. But now, they no can make the bingo already. It's against the law, eh? That way, they make plenty money before, that bingo.

FZ: So, now, how is it celebrated?

FC: Now, they only get Mass over here. They get procession go to the. . . . You know the Lady of the Mount, that one? On top there?

FZ: Oh, I see.

FC: We pray over there and we come home. And then, after that, we go to the hall, get party over there.

FZ: That's nice. Neighborhood. How about Flores de Mayo?

FC: Ah, not much over here. Not like in the Philippines. But some other church, they celebrate big Flores de Mayo. Because you know why, over here, people, plenty of them are working. Work nighttime and hard. Not in the plantation. Plantation, they only work daytime, eh? That's why, they can have Flores de Mayo over there in the plantation.

FZ: How about Christmas? How's it celebrated here?

FC: Same thing, Christmas. We celebrate in the. . . . Well, the Filipino cathedral, they get those Christmas party over there. But now, sometimes we make our Christmas party. But according to the priest now, if you celebrate Christmas party before the Christmas, you spoil the spirit of the Christmas. Like now, before the Christmas you celebrate. Then, Christmas, you celebrate again. The regular Christmas Day, you get no more feeling already, too, because you celebrated already. So, now, we no celebrate the Christmas party. Only one time now.

FZ: One time where?

FC: In the church. Christmas.

FZ: In the church? Oh, yeah, the Christmas party at the church.

FC: Christmas party. After that, we go to the hall, eh?

FZ: Midnight Mass?

FC: Yeah. Midnight Mass over here. Oh, nice.

FZ: Oh, I see. So, the party's . . .

FC: You know the Midnight Mass over here? Oh, boy, no 'nough the church. Plenty people, all this neighborhood. They like this one. They come over here. Even different church, they come over here.

FZ: Nice.

FC: Yeah. Because our priest over here, Filipino, eh? Good, this priest over here. Now we get another priest, that Mexican. Mexican, I think. He's the spiritual director of the Samoans. We get Samoans now over there. They get good, too, the Samoans. They help the church.

FZ: That's nice.

FC: We clean the church, the Filipinos. Like on March. . . . No, May, I think, we do. The Filipino Catholic Club started the money-making project. We sell that huli-huli chicken. They cook over here, by the (parking lot of the church). Filipinos go and cook.

FZ: At the church.

FC: But all the ethnic groups, they sell tickets, too.

FZ: That's fundraising?

FC: Fundraising.

FZ: For the parish?

FC: For the parish.

FZ: Because now, they get about, I don't know how many thousand more for the church. But the priest like buy the organ, because the organ already old and the tone no good already. And they like fix some more place over there. That's why, we sell about--how many thousand of tickets they print. Three thousand five hundred, I think, tickets. And they give every. . . . And the Filipinos sell most of the one. Almost one thousand, you know, our share, to sell. Other ethnic group, ah, they only. . . .

FZ: So, you might even have a Christmas party at the parish?

FC: Yeah, at the parish.

FZ: This is after Midnight Mass?

FC: After Midnight Mass.

FZ: Oh, what fun.

FC: Fun, you. Sometimes, you see, they ask the priest to sing. Oh, we get one priest over here. One retired Army. Only part-time over here, retired Army. Father Peterson. They call Father Peterson. Oh, he can sing (chuckles). That priest. He get nice voice. And you know, this, what we do, too. We honor the priests and also the nuns. We make that kind party. Big party for them. And we give them sometimes twenty-five dollar to recognize their job, working good for the church. Only the Filipinos do that. But now, the Father, Filipino, over here, tell, "Why not make it the parish affair, this one?" So we include the other parish, too. But we, Filipinos, the one who spearhead the thing.'

FZ: Could you tell me about Holy Week here?

FC: Holy Week?

FZ: In Kalihi?

FC: Kalihi, Holy Week, same thing. We go church every day. They get evening Mass, over here. Plenty people go church in the evening. Especially on Holy Week. Like me, I go church every morning. Because near. I got nothing to do. And besides, I wake up four o'clock or four thirty. I cannot sleep already. I go church because near.

FZ: And are there processions here, Holy Week?

FC: No. No more procession, Holy Week. Only in the church.

FZ: I'm asking because in the Philippines, it's always a time for big processions.

FC: Yeah. Oh, big processions over there. Inside the hall, inside the church only. The Station of the Cross is inside.

FZ: Because in the Philippines, the Station of the Cross . . .

FC: Oh, big.

FZ: . . . is even outside.

FC: Our place, Camiling, oh, they get so many stations they make. Every corner of the one. Big celebration, that one. Our religious activities in the Philippines are more solemn than here in Hawaii.

That's why, these people already, they. . . .

FZ: I hear in the old days there were Filipino movies shown in Kalihi?

FC: Oh, yeah, before. But now, since they get the television, no more. Because sometimes they show Filipino movies over here, the television, too. You know, the theater already, nobody go in the theater now since they get television.

FZ: But before, theater?

FC: Before, full. You know, during the war [World War II], oh, the long line of the one. From lunch time, I think, until evening like that. Continuous. That's why, plenty people go.

FZ: Tell me about your family and Filipino movies. Did you ever bring your family to Filipino movies?

FC: Oh, yeah. Not much. They are not interested, my children. They are not.

FZ: When you first moved to Kalihi, where did you do your grocery shopping?

FC: Oh, we go in the market. And that time, you know the store before, it's by Farrington High School. Get one owned by Chinese family over there. But now, I don't know. No more over there already. Since they get that Star Market, all that kind. Since that time, all the small stores all dropped out.

FZ: Where did you get your Filipino foods?

FC: Oh, the Filipinos foods is the one. Everybody, the same. They selling the one. The stores now. Bagoong.

FZ: How about before?

FC: But the bagoong, now, nobody selling bagoong. They ban that one because not sanitary, they said. But only thing they sell now, that patis, they sell. But bagoong no more.

FZ: How about before? Where would you get your bagoong?

FC: Oh, they sell one, this Lorenzana [a brand name]. They selling. That's the agent over there. But now, you know, only patis now they sell.

FZ: How about your other Filipino plants? What Filipino plants did you have in your garden?

FC: Oh, before, I get that kind parda, that kind. . . .

FZ: Parda?

FC: Parda, they call that. They get plenty parda here before, but finally, they cut. Finally, they clean the yard.

FZ: No vegetables? How about Filipino vegetables?

FC: What you call that?

FZ: Marunggay?

FC: No, marunggay, I get, behind.

FZ: Parya?

FC: Yeah, parya, sometimes, the one. Behind get parya along the wall. And the potato.

FZ: Kamote.

FC: Leona planted potatoes over here, but they cut all the potato. See, before, we get plenty potato over here, all the ladies we know, they come all and pick up every time. Every morning we go church. When we come home, my wife Leona go pick up. And that's what they eat in the morning. Potato leaves. Good, you know. Healthy.

FZ: How do your children like Filipino foods?

FC: Oh, they like. Because when their mother. . . . They are used to (eating) Filipino foods. All kind Filipino food, they eat. This pinakbet like that, dinengdeng. That adobo.

FZ: What local foods do they like that are non-Filipino?

FC: Now, my son-in-law, now, they like steak only and spaghetti. Oh, that's the one, my daughter, my youngest one, cook sometimes. Spaghetti. Even my grandson, too, he like spaghetti, that steak.

FZ: Not vegetables, though.

FC: Ah, they no like.

FZ: Ilocanos like vegetables.

FC: Yeah. Us, vegetables. But my daughter like vegetables. Even my son-in-law that died, the one died in the accident. Oh, he like. He work in that cold storage in the airport. Oh, he bring plenty food, that's why. Chicken, any kind, lobster, shrimps, steaks every weekend. They eat barbecue here, behind, before. But when he died, pau.

FZ: Near here the Kalihi Tunnel opened in 1960. How did that affect you?

FC: Oh, good.

FZ: When the tunnel opened?

FC: When the tunnel opened, oh, come good over here because they pass through here, and easy to go to Kaneohe, near. But if you go Pali, that's far. Over here, near. You can travel. Get plenty improvement in here since we. . . . You know, when we move in this place, oh, hardly houses around here. You know that Star Market now? Used to be plenty kiawe over there. All kiawe trees over there. And besides, the prison camp [World War II camp?] before. The Japanese.

FZ: And your neighbors were Filipinos?

FC: Oh, Filipinos. Some Portuguese.

FZ: When you moved in?

FC: Well, Portuguese over here, same one. This one is Portuguese-Hawaiian over here. And we had the Japanese over here behind. Yeah, first, many Japanese. When they sold the piggery, they bought this place. Over here. And then, this one, the Chinese stay here before. One Chinese old man, he own this yard. He was selling it for only \$5,000, you know. But I get no money that time. So, one real estate bought this for \$7,000 and build this house. And then, he sold to one Filipino. This Filipino, he like move over here, because the lady used to sell pots. She get plenty money, and the husband get good pay. They despise over here. Dirty, this place, they said. Even dirty this place. And he even scold me because the house is old, eh?

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

FC: "You despise Kalihi. Why don't you move? All the people here are poor people. You rich. Go someplace." That's why he bought place in Fort Shafter, I think. The houses over there. And finally, this family. This one used to be a contractor before, work in the contracting business. And then, he get plenty money this one because he work overseas before. He's a barber. You know, overseas, Kwajalein, they get barbershop over there. When he pau with the men, the officers go see him. "You know how to cut hair?"

"Yeah." They build a barbershop for him, and they go cut over there. And then, when he came home. . . . And then, he get plenty money in the bank. They are advising him to buy house. He not interested because he went to the Philippines, get married. Then he married this wife. Then finally, when get children, come back over here. Then finally, the wife wanted to come over here, so he bought this house. He bought from that Filipino. The other Filipino. When he retired, this guy, he pay cash all this house.

FZ: Wow.

FC: Retirement. He was contractor before. Now, he rent. Downstairs, rent the house. Lucky.

FZ: In your house, right now, how many are you here?

FC: Oh, the old man get one room downstairs. But sometimes he go to Waipahu. And then, my son over here. My grandson is in the other room next to me. My daughter, she downstairs.

FZ: The old man is your. . . .

FC: Father-in-law, because he's the stepfather of my wife before.

FZ: Oh, I see. Then your son is by himself or he has. . . . Your son who is staying here . . .

FC: Stay with me. He no work.

FZ: How about his children?

FC: Oh, they stay with the wife. But he go over there and help them.

FZ: And your daughter is staying with her children, too.

FC: Oh, yeah. The daughter over here.

FZ: How many are they? Your daughter?

FC: Only one over here. She get house in Nanakuli, but I tell her to rent the house over there, come over here. Because I need somebody with me. They get house in Nanakuli, nice apartment house.

FZ: So your daughter is staying. She's with her children here.

FC: Yeah. With the boy. Only one boy, eh? And my oldest daughter stay in Mililani. Get their house over there. They get two boys.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

FZ: How many times since World War the Second have you been back to the Philippines?

FC: Oh, only two times. Nineteen seventy-one and '73. That's all. But I tell you before, I no like go Philippines already because I cannot ride boat, eh? I get seasick. But finally get the airplane, eh? So when I went the first time, my son gave me pills. Good, the pills. Airsick pills. But I get used to already, by and by. But not in the boat, hey! When the boat is running, oh, I don't eat.

FZ: What are your feelings about returning to the Philippines?

FC: I have no. . . . I like vacation go over there, especially when my

wife died. I get no feelings. In fact, my son, the first time I went, and then afterwards he call me. "Daddy, the house for you is already finished," he said. They get apartment house, eh? Yeah, but "Excuse me anakko. I am not used to with the climate over there. I'm used to the climate in Hawaii." They are hot over there, daytime. Oh. That's why, now, I don't know if I go vacation. I spend all my money already when my wife sick, when I get sick. Plus, she died. We spend plenty money, you know. I don't know if I go vacation. That's why, my son, the sergeant retired, you know, in the Air Force. Twenty-one years in the service. He was sick before. They claim he got no more chance to live already. Then, finally they find a good medicine treatment for that. He come good. They retired him. Complete retirement. But now, when he come good, they put him back in the service. He burn up. Because he was making plenty money, that time. When he went back to work, the retire pay come off. Now, he retired December the 31st, this year.

FZ: What are your thoughts about the future of Kalihi?

FC: Oh, good, over here, the future of Kalihi, because of this Star Market over here. Oh, good, the one who put up the Star Market. Big. Over there make plenty money over there. Nearly all, plenty people come shop over here because the parking. Free parking. You know, the first one who started the parking? The Sears Roebuck, before. You know the police station now? In Beretania? That's the Sears Roebuck before. They are the first one that started the parking. Then, finally, when they build that Ala Moana Shopping Center over there, then they moved over there. Because no more room, eh?

FZ: You think the future of Kalihi is good?

FC: Good, future of Kalihi.

FZ: Because of the supermarket?

FC: Supermarket.

FZ: It attracts a lot of people.

FC: Yeah, plenty people around here. Although we get supermarket over there, we get some stores over here. We get our bakery over here.

FZ: So, it's easy to go from place to place.

FC: We go. And the bus come here every time. Although you get no more car. So long you know the schedule of the bus, you free to go out everywhere.

FZ: What are your thoughts about your life?

FC: Well, since Leona came--before, I am not so happy--but since Leona came, I was good, you know. I was so happy here before. But now she died already, oh, lonesome. I get used to with her. Like her, jolly kind lady. Good. Same thing with my [other] wife. They are good people. The ones I marry. But they get short life, eh? They die. Like the one, she died [when she was] little over thirty-eight years old.

FZ: How young.

FC: Yeah, young. Because of the kidney, eh? Maybe the kidney, she inherit from the mother. The mother get that kind. That's why, I told my children, "You better take care your kidney. You know what you do? You drink plenty water."

FZ: That's good. Good, clean water.

FC: Used that kind water therapy, they call. Me, I always drink water, nighttime and I wake up. I drink water nighttime. Warm water, not the cold water.

FZ: That's right. Well, thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW

KALIHI: Place of Transition

Vol. I

**ETHNIC STUDIES ORAL
HISTORY PROJECT**

**Social Science Research Institute
University of Hawaii at Manoa**

JUNE 1984